The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1886.

The Week.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S interview, transcribed by Mr. Robert P. Porter and published in the Philadelphia *Press*, must be taken as the matured intentions of the leading Republican Senator on the great financial question of the day, viz., How shall the public revenue be reduced to the limit of the public requirements after the 3 per cent. bonds are all paid off? Mr. Sherman says, Repeal the sugar duties and the tobacco tax. This remedy has been "going the rounds of the press" for some time, in a way which indicates that it is the settled plan of the protectionists for meeting a great crisis in their system. The two measures would reduce the revenue $70,000,000 to $80,000,000 per annum. This is a pretty large reduction, and its seriousness is enhanced by the fact that it will be impossible to restore these taxes at any future time, except in the improbable contingency of a war. It may be presumed, however, that the growth of the country will swell the remaining sources of revenue to such an extent that when the 4½ per cents fall due in 1891, they may be paid off as rapidly as public opinion seems now to require. The stumbling-block which Senator Sherman and his interviewer find in their way is the outcry and resistance of the Louisiana planters, who will immediately become free-traders, just as the quinine manufacturers did after the duty on their product was removed. The quinine manufacturers are a feeble folk, but the sugar-planters are numerous and powerful, and the South is likely to make common cause with them. Accordingly, Senator Sherman suggests in a tentative way the payment of a bounty to the sugar-producers to compensate them for the repeal of the duty. This, he says, would not be a subsidy, because a subsidy means a payment to one person, while a bounty is a payment to a whole class of producers. We presume that the planters will not stickle over the name of the thing provided they get the money, and we advise them to go for it with all their might. A bill to provide for the payment of the bounty would open the eyes of a great many people who are now hopelessly tariff-blind.

Bearing upon the question of the constitutionality of the National Banking Act considered apart from the note-issuing function—a question touched upon by Comptroller Trenholm in his annual report—the December number of *Rhodes's Journal of Banking* publishes a brief résumé of all the decisions of the Supreme Court relating to that particular subject. The conclusion of the writer is that these decisions go to the length of conceding to Congress full and unquestioned power to grant charters to national banks, quite irrespective of the note-issuing function, since the decisions virtually leave Congress the sole judge of its reasons for granting such charters. In other words, although the original purpose of the National Banking Act was to aid the Government to borrow money, yet the power is not exhausted when the original purpose has ceased to operate. This is the only construction that is free from legal absurdities and paradoxes and also from very great business embarrassments; for if a bank charter should expire by the calling in of the bonds held by the bank, complications would arise which the law never contemplated or made any provision for, and which the shareholders and depositors could never have foreseen. A corollary results from this, that if the Government calls in a particular lot of bonds held by a national bank as the basis of its charter, it cannot compel the bank to go into the market and buy other bonds at any premium that the holders may ask. It might happen that the holders would not sell at all. That is what will happen eventually, and certainly the law does not require impossibilities. It follows that Congress ought at once to repeal that clause of the law which requires national banks to invest a certain portion of their capital in United States bonds, whether they issue circulating notes or not. Philosophers of the Beck school, who take it in dudgeon that the bonds should stand at such a high premium in the market, should be active in securing the repeal of this clause, since the compulsory purchase of bonds by the banks to replace their called bonds is one of the contributing causes of the high premium.

It is reported from Washington by the *Times* correspondent, that the President is going, when he gets time, to examine Benton's speeches again, to see whether they were as hostile to himself as Mr. Sullivan, the editor of the Missouri paper, reports one of them to have been. This will, we respectfully submit, make the situation worse than it is, because it will make it a little ridiculous. The examination of the foolish speeches of a ranting ignoramus such as Benton appears to be, is surely no part of the business of the Chief Magistrate of the American republic; and every minute he gives to it is either wasted, or taken away from the American people who are entitled to it. There is only one way out of the existing muddle that will restore the somewhat shaken confidence of many of the President's supporters in the President's judgment about the reform of the civil service, and that is, to issue an order warning every subordinate officer in the service that he will be dismissed if caught stumping in any electoral canvass, and that the profoundest thinker and the greatest blatherskite of them all will have exactly the same measure meted out to them.

If the President be still in doubt about the effect of his Stone-Benton letters, he has only to read the comments thereon of those Democratic newspapers which have hitherto opposed, ridiculed, and vilified him. There is not one of them which is not to-day rejoicing over what they consider a breach of the pledges to which he undoubtedly owed his election. There is not a base, time-serving, corrupt politician in the Democratic party to-day who has not been made happier by these letters, and who is not open and ostentatious in his chuckling. Every enemy Mr. Cleveland has made by what is best in his career, both as Governor and President, is to-day ready to forgive him and cleave to him. The spectacle is a melancholy one, and deserves prayerful consideration by somebody.

The most interesting portion of Secretary Lamar's report is that which treats of the Indian question. He states that there has been a steady improvement in the moral, material, and intellectual condition of the mass of the Indian population during the past year, and that the average attendance of children at schools is 1,600 greater than heretofore. The estimates presented for the Indian service during the coming year are $422,386 less than those of last year, which in turn were $1,296,790 less than those of the previous year; and Mr. Lamar considers this reduction of expenditure, at the same time that the race is advancing, good evidence that past work is bearing fruit. The work of locating the Indians on land in severalty is being pushed as rapidly as possible, and during the past year about 800 have received titles to allotments of land for individual occupancy, while a large number have taken up homesteads on the public domain under the Indian homestead laws, and a large number have been located who have not yet been furnished with a title to their selections.

Secretary Endicott makes the very sensible suggestion that the fitness of any army officer for promotion should be ascertained by examination, to be conducted by officers of a higher grade. The ordinary method is seniority, but nothing does more to destroy hope and enterprise and desire for improvement than the seniority rule in all services in which it prevails. Mr. Endicott does not propose a competitive examination, but simply an examination to ascertain whether a man is in any particular case qualified to go up higher. At present, seniority in most cases gives a right to promotion, fitness or no fitness.

Mr. Blaine's recent exploits, his attack upon civil-service reform and his refusal to shake hands with Mr. Edmunds, have made serious breaks in his following in the press of his party. There are now no less than eight Republican journals of large influence which have sharply criticised him for those acts. These are the Boston *Advertiser*, the Providence *Journal*, the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, the Philadelphia *Telegraph*, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, the Rutland (Vt.) *Herald*, and the Burlington (Vt.) *Free Press*. To this formidable list the Buffalo *Express* shows signs of allowing itself to be added. In fact, if the real sentiments of the Republican journals of the country could be ascertained to-day, we be-

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lieve that it would be found that, with the exception of five or six papers, all of them are hoping that some chance or other will relieve them of the necessity of supporting Mr. Blaine again. We believe the same thing is true of the great majority of the leaders of the party. They have not the courage to speak out frankly, and say that Mr. Blaine ought to take himself out of the way, but they would rejoice mightily to see him do it.

We regret to observe that a recent attempt of the Hon. William E. Chandler to restore harmony throughout the length and breadth of the Republican party is likely to end in failure. He published a card a few days ago in which he pronounced "baseless" a statement made by the Chairman of the National Republican Committee, Mr. B. F. Jones, at the close of the campaign of 1884, to the effect that President Arthur and his Cabinet had shown a want of fidelity and zeal in the Blaine canvass. After thus, in a sufficiently explicit way, calling Mr. Jones a liar, Mr. Chandler proceeded to deprecate, in a beautiful passage, the tendency among the leaders of his party to indulge in personal quarrels. He thought Mr. Blaine acted "from sudden impulse" when he declined Mr. Edmunds's hand at the Arthur funeral, and "thereby widened a breach which, like that with Mr. Conkling, ought never to have existed." Then, holding behind him the club with which he had just hit Mr. Jones over the head, Mr. Chandler continued: "While our great Republican leaders quarrel, the party suffers, and by reason of such differences loses a Presidential election. It is for the interest of the country that such purely personal controversies should not arise or continue between prominent leaders of either party."

Mr. Jones appears to have been more deeply impressed with the club than the olive-branch portion of Mr. Chandler's letter, for in an interview which was published on Friday he says that his statement of 1884 was not "baseless," but entirely true, and then makes these pointed and decidedly unfriendly personal allusions to Mr. Chandler:

"So far as Mr. Chandler's reference to me personally is concerned I do not feel called upon to defend myself. I have no taste for, nor do I see any present occasion for, a discussion as to political methods with one whose plans and proposals, during the brief intercourse I had with him in the campaign of 1884, were not such as to commend him to those having the success of the Republican party at heart. His criticisms at that time of men then the most prominent in the party, do not seem to me quite consistent with his present expressions of regret in regard to bad feeling between public men. I would not like to feel called upon to make public the facts upon which my opinion of Mr. Chandler is based."

We trust that Mr. Chandler's anxiety to heal party breaches will not induce him to remain silent under the imputation in this closing sentence. If Mr. Jones's opinion of Mr. Chandler is anything like that which the intelligent public has long held of him, it would be interesting to see it set forth with ample specifications. Mr. Chandler should let party harmony look out for itself long enough to call upon Mr. Jones for a bill of particulars.

The temperance attachment of the Blaine organization in this State, hitherto known as the anti-saloon party, will henceforth be known as the New York State Temperance Republican League. The change of name was accomplished at the Convention on Wednesday week, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Ball of Buffalo. One reason given in favor of the new name was that "anti-saloon" was not broad enough, and we think this was a sound view. Anybody who has read Sheridan Shook's telegram will see why. "Anti-saloon" means war upon the saloon without distinction of politics. It means the suppression of Republican as well as Democratic saloons, or, as Mr. Shook would put it, it takes away from "Republican saloon-keepers the protection to which they are entitled." The new name is much less specific, and is broad enough to make even Mr. Shook feel at home under its protection. It simply means that the League is made up of persons who are desirous of running the temperance cause in the interest of the Republican party.

The Republican leaders in Boston appear to be imitating the methods employed by their party in the late municipal election in this city. They have secured the nomination of a Labor candidate, and have put up as their own nominee a thoroughgoing Blaine Republican. Their hope is to draw from the Democrats enough votes for the Labor candidate to defeat the reëlection of Mayor O'Brien. There is no pretence made of desire for the public interest in this scheme. Mayor O'Brien's record as an upright official and consistent civil-service reformer is the strongest possible reason why he should be reëlected. His defeat would be a victory for partisan and corrupt influences in politics. He will be supported by the Independents, and, it is believed, will also receive the votes of many Republicans who are too public-spirited to sustain their party managers in their partisan project.

A noteworthy illustration of the extent to which the South has already outgrown the era of the Confederacy has just been furnished in Alabama. A proposition was made that the Legislature should make a liberal appropriation for the erection of a marble monument at the capital in memory of the Alabamians who lost their lives in the Southern army. But the new Governor, Thomas Seay, himself a soldier on the Confederate side, in his inaugural address takes ground against such use of the public funds, at least until ample provision has been made for the care of surviving soldiers, and even questions the wisdom of such an appropriation under any circumstances, recalling the fact that there were those among the ancients who opposed the erection of monuments in commemoration of the triumphs of civil strife, and that at one time some of those that had been erected were razed to the earth. The Mobile *Register*, one of the most prominent Democratic newspapers in the State, goes still further than the Governor. It argues that the proposition is unconstitutional, and that even if it were constitutional, it would not be equitable to tax all citizens for a monument which does not represent the sympathies of all the people, since there are "a vast number of taxpayers in Alabama, old Union men and their descendants, colored men, new-comers from the North, and others, who had no sympathy with the Confederate cause."

The report of the State Geologist of Alabama, just submitted to the Legislature, illustrates the rapid growth of mining in the South. Fifteen years ago coal was not produced in any quantity in Alabama, and in 1880 the amount mined reached only 322,934 tons, while last year the total had risen to 2,225,000 tons, or nearly one eighth of the record of Pennsylvania for bituminous coal six years ago. Six-sevenths of this came from what is called the Warrior coal field, covering several of the northwestern counties drained by the Black Warrior River, and comprising a region about two-thirds as large as the coal area of Great Britain. The State Geologist estimates that there are in this coal field more than 100,000,000,000 tons of available coal, which would be worth enough to buy the whole State out 200 times over. The coal is of excellent quality, and is especially valuable from its proximity to vast deposits of iron ore, in the manufacture of which it can be utilized almost where it is mined. The growing concern of Pennsylvania mine-owners and manufacturers over Southern competition appears to be entirely justifiable.

The people of the "Pan-Handle," as the northern end of Idaho is called, expressed their minds on the question of annexation to Washington Territory, and the vote was practically unanimous in favor of the proposition. This district is naturally allied in interest with Washington Territory, and the latter Territory, with this addition, will become a symmetrical region, which is qualified by population and development to become a State—although it should be under some other name than that of the capital of the country. The Idaho precedent should be followed in Dakota, by the holding of an election at which the people shall be allowed to express their opinion on the question whether the Territory shall be divided or come into the Union as one State. Until provision is made for such a popular vote on this question, nothing ought to be done by Congress in the matter, for there is no evidence that the people favor the pending scheme of the politicians to divide the Territory and admit the lower part as a State.

We wish to give notice to persons who are occupying themselves with the "labor problem," that what we have asked them for is not more general discussion, but a definite description of those wrongs of the laborer which are capable of being remedied by legislation, and a sketch of the remedy in the shape of the draft of a statute bill. We say this because we are being deluged with letters of the old sort about the designs of the Creator in making the earth, and the "natural rights" of the inhabitants thereof. Among other answers to our demand for a bill of particulars, we have received a letter from Mr. Charles F. Wingate, the sanitary engineer, who figured prominently in the George movement, calling attention to the condition of the New York tene-

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ment houses, and enclosing the draft of a bill which certainly ought to be enacted, providing for their improvement as regards healthfulness. But a moment's reflection ought to show Mr. Wingate that the New York tenement houses might all be converted to abodes as wholesome and cheerful as the Navarro flats, without contributing anything to the solution of the labor problem. The wages of the laborer would still be what they are now, the rent of his dwelling as high or higher, his share in the amusements and luxuries of life just as small, and his dependence on his employer, the capitalist, just as great. Moreover, the condition of the New York tenement houses only affects a very small body of laborers in this city. What we are waiting for is some grand piece or pieces of legislation which will ameliorate the lot of laborers in general. Mr. Wingate offers nothing of this sort. Neither do those friends of labor who send us on the tariff as one of the remediable grievances of labor, because we believe the laborers in general do not object to the tariff. Mr. Powderly says he is a "protectionist from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet." What we wish to see is remedies of which the laborers themselves will approve, and which they will accept when ready.

While we are on this subject, we may as well also ask for a list of "the laws," of which we have lately heard a good deal, which "discriminate unfairly against labor and in favor of capital," together with some suggestions for their modification, if they are not to be repealed altogether? Of course, for the reasons above stated, we do not intend this request to cover the tariff. What we seek is a reference to these laws by date, page, and volume, so that we can examine them, and say what we think about them. None of the orators or writers who mention them, have, as far as we have observed, given any references by which these statutes can be identified. We take it for granted that they are either Federal or State laws, and not laws of nature. These latter are, we know, exceedingly troublesome, and some of them very harsh; but there is not much chance of their being amended as long as the Democratic party is in power.

The Socialists succeeded on Sunday night in getting a resolution passed by the Central Labor Union forbidding the members to read "capitalistic newspapers," and forbidding the Secretary to give information about their proceedings to "the reporters of the capitalistic press." The orator on this occasion was a certain Jablonowski, who was defeated in his first attempt, but cunningly waited till his opponents had gone home, and then moved to reconsider. But we think Jablonowski, who is an oral and not a manual laborer, is undoubtedly right in this matter. People who are expected to swallow the social and moral philosophy produced at the meetings of the Central Labor Union, ought not to be allowed to read any publications not furnished by the committee of the organization. Anybody, for instance, with whom it is desirable that Jablonowski should have influence, should never be allowed to listen to anybody but Jablonowski. His doings and sayings are, it is true, melancholy reading to those who remember that it is to bodies like the Central Labor Union that some of our social reformers are desirous of committing the government of the world and the care of modern civilization.

We suppose that no winter passes without causing a shudder in the breasts of all right-minded people when they read in the newspapers that thousands of cattle have perished from starvation on the Western plains. This particular form of cruelty to animals has seemed to be, and probably is, beyond the reach of law and of local public opinion. Nevertheless, the recent national convention of humane societies at Pittsburgh took the matter up, and delivered their opinions upon it in very proper terms. They say truly that nobody has a moral right to bring into existence a greater number of cattle than he can reasonably expect to find food and some kind of shelter for in winter. Yet the practice is to estimate for a certain percentage of loss by lingering torture, and then trust to the chances of getting through the winter with a better showing than the estimate. This is cruelty to animals reduced to system. Acts which would be severely punished if committed in the older States, and visited with loss of social consideration, are the principal trade and calling of large territories. The suggestion of the Association was that since the ranges are mostly on public lands, unsettled by the emigrant, and still under the direct and immediate control of Congress, it should be made unlawful for any one to range cattle on public lands without making provision for them in winter by food and shelter.

The charges upon sleeping-cars have always been so large that they should have covered the service of attendants, as well as the use of a berth. Yet every generous-minded person has felt under a moral obligation to fee the porter, because he knew that the porter's employers gave him so small wages that, unless the passengers came to his rescue, he would be shamefully underpaid. The Wisconsin Central Railroad Company has just announced a new departure in this matter. It has decided to increase the pay of the porters and waiters employed on its sleeping and dining-cars to an amount which will give them ample compensation for their work, and to prohibit them from receiving "tips" from passengers. Orders have been issued to them to receive no money from any passenger, except for blacking shoes, "when requested" to do so, for which service they are permitted to accept ten cents. This is a practical way of dealing with the fee problem, and it is the only practical way.

The overthrow of the French Ministry on the question of abolishing the sous-préfets is one of those surprises in which French politics abounds. M. de Freycinet was supposed to be in danger from the budget, which is in a terrible condition, and especially from a proposal now pending to stop the appropriation for ecclesiastical purposes; but nobody thought of his being in danger from the sous-préfets. These officers are 362 in number, and reign over the districts (arrondissements) into which each department is divided, just as the préfet reigns over the department as the agent or representative of the central authority. As the préfet is assisted by a Council-General of the Department, so also the sous-préfet is assisted by a district council (*conseil d'arrondissement*), elected by universal suffrage, one member from each canton. The préfet has always been a very great man in the department. He is the head of the police, he superintends the collection of taxes, and his residence in the chief town of the department is a sort of little court, the balls and receptions of which are great affairs for the provincial society—that is, for people who cannot get to Paris. He and the commanding general of the military district are tremendous personages, and their visits to each other, when either of them is a new arrival, are among the great ceremonies of a provincial town.

The sous-préfet is a much smaller man, of course, than the préfet, but this does not prevent his thinking himself just as great, and giving himself in his district the departmental airs of his chief. But the times are unpropitious both for him and for his chief. Until the fall of the Empire, a department without a préfet and sous-préfets was one of those things of which a French mind could hardly conceive. Their disappearance would have seemed the advent of anarchy itself, or a dissolution of the social fabric; for no matter what revolutions occurred in Paris, the préfet and his sous-préfets always remained undisturbed, the representative and guarantee of social order. Under the Republic, however, there has been an immense development of local independence and self-government, and of the habits of association for all sorts of purposes. The country now swarms with clubs and societies of every description, social, benevolent, economical, industrial, which not only did not exist under former governments, but would not have been permitted, and they have begotten a feeling of restlessness over the supervision of the central Government and over the omnipresence of its agents, which is something very new in French life. The consequence is, that there is a widespread feeling that the sous-préfet is an expensive and useless meddler, whom the departments can very well dispense with. The Radicals want him to go because he is useless, and the Monarchists want him to go because they think him a "cad," whose table manners are bad. Poor M. de Freycinet, however, naturally wanted to hold on to him until he got into smoother water, because, there being 362 sous-préfets, it gave him that number of places to fill at his discretion, for the purpose of restoring "harmony in the party," or placating a disgruntled deputy or senator, or turning the tide in a doubtful district. That the Chambers insist on getting rid of the sous-préfets is, however, a good sign.

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SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, December 1, to TUESDAY, December 7, 1886, inclusive.

DOMESTIC.

THE Senate and House of Representatives of the United States met at noon on Monday with the usual formalities. The attendance in both houses was large. At two o'clock the President's message was received and read. It is a long document, filling about seven newspaper columns. Its principal features are summarized elsewhere.

The annual report of the Secretary of War, Mr. Endicott, shows that the army at the date of latest returns consisted of 2,103 officers and 23,946 enlisted men. On the subject of coast defence he says: "The principal cities named in the report of the Board on Fortifications should be fortified, and work on those most important should be begun at once, viz., New York, San Francisco, Boston, and Washington. The defences required must be erected and prepared to resist attack from the water. We have a single problem to solve in defending our cities—how best to resist and silence the armored ships and the steel guns and mortars of modern construction. It can only be accomplished by guns of equal force to those which any enemy can bring against us, and by torpedoes and submarine mines laid in the navigable channels, both so guarded and protected that they can do efficient service when required. We have no gun now which can stop the progress of or do any material injury to a well-armored ship. The manufacture of a gun is a work of time, and of a long time, and cannot be extemporized when wanted."

Secretary Lamar of the Interior, in his annual report, says that during the last year less than 100 of the 260,000 Indians in this country have been in open opposition to the Government, and he gives statistics showing that the Indians are making progress in civilization. The Secretary renews his recommendation of last year, that a law be enacted for the appointment of a commission to visit each reservation and investigate the condition of the Indians thereon. The desire for individual holding of land is growing. As a means of teaching the Indians the habits of self-government and of obedience to law, local tribunals, styled Courts of Indian Offences, presided over by Indian judges, have been established upon many of the reservations. These are reported to be doing good work. The Secretary acknowledges the evils of introducing railroads in the Indian Territory, but says: "The railroads, however, while serving the necessary purposes of commerce, bring the Indians into closer contact and communication with the intelligence, the general trade and intercourse of the country, and they contribute largely to enhance the value of the Indian lands through which they pass."

Secretary Manning of the Treasury, after showing that we shall soon have an annual surplus of $125,000,000, makes the following recommendations: (1.) Repeal of the clause in the act of February 28, 1878, making compulsory Treasury purchases of silver, for the reasons heretofore given, and in order to reduce surplus and unnecessary taxation, $24,000,000 a year. (2.) Further reduction of surplus taxation, close down to the necessities of the Government economically administered. (3.) Repeal of the act of May 31, 1878, making compulsory post-redemption issues and reissues of United States legal-tender notes, thus facilitating—(4.) Gradual purchase and payment of $346,681,016 outstanding promissory notes of the United States with the present and accruing Treasury surplus, issuing silver certificates in their room, and gold certificates if need be, without contraction of the present circulating volume of the currency, these notes (called greenbacks) being now the only debt due and payable before 1891, except the three per cent. bonds, which are probably all to be called and paid early in the ensuing fiscal year. The Secretary recommends that the first step in the way of tax reduction should be to repeal the tariff duties on raw materials. The Secretary does not favor the repeal of the sugar duties, nor of the excise taxes on liquors and tobacco. He thinks that wool should be made free, and that a corresponding reduction should be made in the duties on woollen goods.

United States Treasurer Jordan, in his annual report, shows that the net receipts of the Government during the year ended June 30, 1886, were $336,439,727, the net expenditures $242,483,138, and the excess of revenue over expenditures $93,956,589. The receipts were $12,749,020.68 greater, and the expenditures were $17,743,796.61 less, than last year. From tables given it appears that there are now in circulation 61,761,448 silver dollars, the largest sum attained in the circulation of this kind of currency. The Treasurer is of the opinion that $65,000,000 is the extreme limit which may be obtained.

Secretary Whitney, in his annual report, says he has done what he could to consolidate in one bureau the general purchases and the care and disposition of stores and property. An Inventory Board, appointed in June last to visit the navy yards, reports that, under the loose system of the past, property might be lost, misused, or stolen without responsibility upon any one. There were found to be over 12,000 tons of cast and wrought iron lying in scraps about the yards, 759,000 pounds of composition and brass, 159,000 pounds of old copper, and 193,000 of old lead. Of most of these articles some bureaus have recently made considerable purchases, and are even doing so at the present time.

Secretary Whitney on Wednesday signed an order directing the discharge of nearly all the watch force of the various navy-yards. The Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, in which the watchmen serve, has concluded that civilian watchmen are only necessary where it is not feasible to station marines. There are upward of 200 navy-yard watchmen employed at $2 for each turn of eight hours' duty. The marines, it is said, make excellent watchmen, and, of course, will not be paid for the extra service.

The reports of the trial trips of the *Atlanta*, just made public by Secretary Whitney, show that her power does not meet the requirements. The Secretary says that the contract for the construction of the *Atlanta* provides that upon trial her machinery shall maintain for six hours a collective indicated horse power of 3,500, and there is nothing in the contract relating to speed.

The decrease of the public debt during November amounted to $3,005,249.57.

The President on Thursday issued a proclamation promulgating the new extradition treaty with Japan, which is now in force.

The tone of the President's message on the tariff question has encouraged revenue reformers in Congress, and Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Morrison will endeavor to proceed as speedily as possible to a consideration of the Morrison bill, which now stands on the House Calendar. An effort will be made to incorporate the Hewitt bill with it. In the Senate on Tuesday Senator Dawes (Rep., Mass.) introduced the following resolution: "That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire and report as soon as practicable what specific reduction can be made in customs duties and internal taxes which will, in their judgment, reduce the receipts to the necessary and economical expenditures of the Government without impairing the prosperity and development of home industries, or the compensation of home labor." Mr. Morrill (Rep., Vt.) offered a resolution, "That the promise of making any revision of the tariff in a spirit of fairness to all interests, not to injure any domestic industries, . . . appears so obviously hopeless and impracticable, that any further attempts at revision by the present Congress in contravention to the foregoing cardinal declarations are to be regarded as inexpedient and detrimental to the revival of the trade and industry of the country." The Senate, on motion of Mr. Hoar, postponed the Union Pacific Funding Bill until December 21, when it is to be made a special order.

Congressman B. T. Frederick (Dem.) of the Fifth Iowa District was made so angry by the fact that he was not successful in having the man of his choice appointed Postmaster at Iowa City, that he has resigned.

The United States Supreme Court, in an opinion rendered on Monday, decides that a person who has been brought within the jurisdiction of the court by virtue of proceedings under an extradition treaty, can only be tried for one of the offences described in the treaty, and for the offence with which he is charged in the proceedings for his extradition, until a reasonable time and opportunity have been given him, after his release or trial under such charge, to return to the country from whose asylum he had been forcibly taken under these proceedings. Chief-Justice Waite dissents from the opinion of the court, on the ground that he can find in the treaty nothing which forbids a trial for any other offence than that for which the extradition was made. The decision of the court is opposed to the position taken by the United States Government in its negotiations with the Government of Great Britain with relation to the Winslow and Lawrence cases.

In the United States Circuit Court at Boston on Friday, in the case of the National Home for Disabled Volunteers against Gen. B. F. Butler, charging the defendant with not accounting for $15,000 of the institution's funds, Judge Carpenter charged the jury that it is a bookkeeping controversy, and that Gen. Butler is distinctly wrong. The jury rendered a verdict against Gen. Butler for $16,537.50 after being out an hour.

The Anti-Saloon Republican Convention at Cortland, N. Y., on Wednesday changed the name of the organization to the New York State Temperance Republican League. Judge Noah Davis was elected President.

The amount paid into the New York State Treasury up to December 1, under the new Vedder law passed last winter, imposing a tax of one-eighth of one per cent. on the capital of new corporations, is $90,029.45. It is estimated that the annual revenue from this source will be over $150,000.

The American Copyright League, at its annual meeting in this city on Thursday afternoon, elected the following Council for the ensuing year: John Bigelow, Prof. H. H. Boyesen; the Rev. Drs. Robert Collyer, Howard Crosby, H. C. Potter, and Morgan Dix, R. W. Gilder, Laurence Hutton, Brander Matthews, Arthur G. Sedgwick, Edmund C. Stedman, Charles Dudley Warner, S. L. Clemens, Poultney Bigelow, R. U. Johnson, E. P. Roe, Charles Barnard, Dr. Titus M. Coan, Col. Thomas W. Knox, Hamilton Mabie, Prof. E. Munroe Smith, Thomas Maitland, Bayard Tuckerman, Prof. E. L. Youmans, Henry M. Alden, W. H. Bishop, George W. Folsom, George Walton Green, H. C. Bunner, and Bronson Howard.

The Trustees of Columbia College decided on Monday to celebrate on April 13, 1887, the 100th anniversary of the revival and confirmation by the Legislature of the royal charter granted in 1754, for establishing a college in the province of New York, and the creation by the same act of a corporate body entitled the Trustees of Columbia College.

FOREIGN.

In the German Reichstag on Friday, in the debate on the first reading of the Septennate Military Bill, the Progressists signified their willingness to vote for the bill provided the period of service were reduced from three to two years. The Government refused to consent to this. The Prussian Minister of War, in advocating the passage of the bill, said:

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"Shall we allow ourselves to be outstripped by a neighboring State, in which we cannot perceive that degree of abstinence from preparations for war and that peaceful disposition necessary to enable us to live in peace? The bill is of the most urgent character. The Reichstag must pass this measure before Christmas if the purpose of the Government is to be attained." The debate was adjourned.

Count von Moltke made a speech in the German Reichstag on Saturday, which has created a profound impression in Europe. It was in the debate on the Septennate Bill. Gen. von Moltke said that all the neighbors of Germany, on the left and on the right, were fully armed, a state of things which even a rich country was unable to bear for any length of time, and which might lead to decisive events at an early date. The preamble to the bill showed how far Germany was behind other States in the strength of her army and the taxation of her people. The French, for instance, paid about double the sum paid by the German people, and an alliance with France would assure the peace of Europe. "But," he continued, "such an alliance is impossible while public opinion in France impetuously demands the surrender of two provinces which we are strongly determined never to give up." The alliance with Austria was valuable, but a great State must rely upon its own strength. The measure under consideration had reference not alone to a peace, but to a war establishment. "We have found it difficult enough to attain the unity of Germany," he said, "Let us uphold it, proving that we are united. The whole world knows that we do not contemplate conquest. May it also learn that we intend to keep what we have, and are resolute and armed to this end." The Vienna *Allgemeine* says that peace between France and Germany is now almost impossible, and that a terrible gulf yawns in Central Europe.

The gravest importance is attached by all Continental writers to Von Moltke's speech. All the foreign correspondents say there is no other topic of conversation among diplomatists and politicians. "It is well understood here," says the London *Times's* Berlin correspondent, "that the German Government must have special reasons for the anxiety with which it is watching the working of French feeling." The Berlin *Post*, Bismarck's organ, declares that Boulanger's plans are the extreme limit of what France can bear in war time, destroying all peaceful occupations, and they can, therefore, have but one meaning. "All parties," the writer adds, "calculate on war as putting an end to this state of things."

In the French Chamber of Deputies on Friday, M. Sarrien, Minister of the Interior, speaking in opposition to a motion for the total abolition of the offices of sub-prefects, promised that he would introduce a bill providing for a partial abolition of the offices. Prime Minister de Freycinet supported M. Sarrien, and reproached the Opposition for seizing every chance that was offered to overthrow the Government. The Chamber, however, adopted the motion for total abolition by a majority of thirteen votes, thus defeating the Government. There was intense excitement in the lobbies of the Chambers. That evening the Ministry tendered their resignations to President Grévy. The members of the Radical Left on Saturday unanimously decided to vote confidence in the Government.

M. de Freycinet having insisted on retiring from the French Premiership, M. Floquet has undertaken to form a new Cabinet. The Russian press hoped for the formation of a Boulanger Cabinet, and that of Germany desired the retention of M. de Freycinet. The Clémenceau party advocated M. Floquet for the Premiership, regarding an extreme Radical Cabinet as not likely.

M. Rouquet, Secretary of the Paris Municipal Council, on Wednesday forwarded to United States Minister McLane the petition adopted by the Council on November 27, asking for his intercession with the Governor of Illinois in behalf of the condemned Chicago Anarchists. Mr. McLane consented to transmit the petition, and sent the following formal reply to the Council: "As the petition is destined for the Governor of Illinois, and is made with the object of sparing human life, I will not refuse my assistance if you persist in demanding it. But allow me to inform you that in the present case it is useless. You can, without disadvantage and with as much efficacy as I, address yourself direct to the Executive of Illinois, who alone has the power of granting the pardon."

Dr. Colin of Paris read a paper before the French Academy of Sciences on Thursday showing that the annual average number of deaths from rabies in France is twenty-six, and that since M. Pasteur began his course of treatment the same number of patients have died. According to official statistics, the number of persons bitten by mad animals last year in France was 351, while M. Pasteur has treated 1,700 patients. Dr. Colin concludes that the Pasteur system is of doubtful efficacy, and he is alarmed for the results of virulent inoculation.

The deputation of Bulgarian notables instructed by the Government to visit the different Powers, and personally place before them the facts of the Bulgarian situation, has started on its tour. It is reported that the deputation has been instructed to demand that the Powers shall either consent to have Prince Waldemar of Denmark elected to the Bulgarian throne, or else permit the return of Prince Alexander.

In their reply to Austria's overtures, England and Italy favor settling the question of the union of Bulgaria and Rumelia before electing a Prince of Bulgaria, while Russia, Turkey, and France favor electing a Prince first.

Gen. Kaulbars arrived at St. Petersburg on Wednesday, and was received with enthusiasm.

Spain, after a long and difficult diplomatic controversy, protracted largely through the hostile spirit of the German military authorities, has finally succeeded in inducing Prince Bismarck to abandon his proposal to establish a naval station at the Caroline Islands. Count de Benomar, Spanish Ambassador to Germany, in conversing with the German Chancellor about the merits of the case, attempted to minimize the importance of having a naval station at the Carolines, and argued that it would not be much for Germany to concede to Spain a withdrawal of the German project. Prince Bismarck corrected the Spanish Ambassador, and said: "It is because I recognize the value and importance of the station that I decide to abandon it, in order to show the value I attach to Spanish friendship."

Johann Georg Meyer, the German genre painter, is dead, aged seventy-three. This famous artist was better known as Meyer von Bremen, from his birthplace.

In high political circles in England the opinion is expressed that a dissolution of Parliament is expected by Easter.

In a recent interview, Archbishop Walsh of Ireland explained his approval of the Irish "Plan of campaign" against rent as follows: "It is admitted on all hands, practically all over Ireland, that reductions, and large reductions, are to be made in rents, and even in judicial rent. The question is as to the amount of those reductions. Whatever inconvenience there may be in having this grave question decided by the tenants, I must maintain that there is just the same inconvenience in having it decided by the landlords. The landlord, like the tenant, now is merely one of two contracting parties, neither more nor less. Within the last six or seven months two proposals have been made by the friends of our Irish tenants, the adoption of either of which by Parliament would have saved us, or rather, I should say, have saved the Government of the country, from the responsibility of the present deplorable state of affairs, viz., Mr. Gladstone's Land-Purchase Bill of the present year, and Mr. Parnell's subsequent proposal for the relief of tenants. If either of these had been accepted, the fixing of fair reductions and fair rents would not now be in the hands of the tenants; it would be in the hands of the constituted courts of the realm. If the present rough-and-ready way has had to be substituted for a formal judicial procedure, the blame surely does not lie at the doors of the Irish tenants or their Parliamentary representatives and political leaders, who did their best in every possible way to have the matter referred for settlement to the courts."

To frustrate Irish landlords' endeavors to seize rents by means of garnishee orders served on tenants' trustees, amended instructions have been issued on the plan of the rent campaign, advising trustees to convey moneys to persons of assured integrity, but possessed of no property, whom the garnishee order will not affect. This precaution has already been taken in regard to twenty-seven properties. Two hundred and thirty tenants on Lord De Frayne's Sligo estate on Thursday paid their rents, less 20 per cent., to Mr. Redmond, Canon Donohue, and Fathers Henry and Felan, as trustees, the agent of the estate having refused to grant a reduction. The payments were made in an orderly and business-like manner, the total amount exceeding £1,000. Mr. Redmond in a speech said that the moment Lord De Frayne decided to accept the money it would be turned over to him. If he tried eviction, the tenants would make it hot for him, and the rents would be used for defending them.

The Irish question was discussed for two hours at the British Cabinet Council on Friday. The Government are apparently so satisfied with their present vigorous policy, and with the Irish outlook generally, that they have decided not to meet again until after Christmas unless unforeseen events compel them to. The Government do not regard the rumors about French interference in Egypt as serious. The Dublin agent of the Central News telegraphs that the Irish Executive, in consequence of the proceedings at the Cabinet council, is preparing for a determined struggle against the Irish National League. The proposed warfare, the telegram asserts, will include proclamations of all League meetings and arrests of the prominent anti-rent agitators.

The British Government have obtained from the law officers of the crown at Dublin opinions to the effect that tenants, trustees, and others conspiring to defraud landlords of due rent are liable to indictment under the common law.

A great Liberal Unionist conference was held in London on Tuesday, at which 400 eminent and influential men were present. Lord Hartington presided, and made an address vigorously denouncing the policy of Mr. Gladstone. A resolution was passed affirming the determination of the conference to make every effort to uphold the Union. Letters were read from Lord Tennyson, the Duke of Argyll, John Bright, and Mr. Chamberlain. The last said: "There is no hope of reuniting the Liberal party unless Mr. Gladstone's scheme of Irish Government is abandoned."

Mr. John Bright, writing with reference to the removal of Nottingham lace machinery to districts where wages are lower, expresses the hope that workmen will soon discover that it is not their true interest to demand higher wages than a trade can pay.

In the Admiralty Court at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on Thursday, the American schooner *Highland Light* was condemned and ordered sold on December 14. She will probably be bought in by the Government and fitted up as a cruiser. This is the first vessel which was seized for violation of the Fisheries Treaty of 1818.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE President's message reprobates the cruel treatment of the Chinese, and promises a "comprehensive remedy" through a convention with the Chinese Government; describes the importance of the Canadian fishery question, and says negotiations are pending, promising an "acceptable conclusion" of the trouble; says a good word for the reciprocity treaty with the Sandwich Islands; pats Liberia on the back, and proposes the gift to her of a "small vessel"; gives the history of Cutting's case; and expresses the hope that the Mexican statute under which he was tried will be modified, but intimates that, whether modified or not, it must not be again enforced against American citizens; describes our good relations with several minor Powers; rejoices over the restoration of commercial reciprocity with Spain in the Antilles; recommends a revision of the naturalization laws in some minor particulars, and our adhesion to the Berne copyright convention; strongly urges the revision of the mode of paying consuls, in accordance with the schedule presented by the State Department, and the provision of a proper system of consular inspection—something sorely needed, and never attempted since Parson Newman made his celebrated journey round the world; gives a summary of the Treasury receipts and expenses; dwells at length on the importance of doing away with the surplus revenue by a reduction of taxation; shows that this surplus, if allowed to continue, will result either in the hoarding of the circulating medium in the Treasury or in "wasteful public extravagance"; protests, both in behalf of the laborer and the farmer, as un-American, against the levying of more taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of the Government, and calls for a revision of the revenue laws in the direction of reduction, by a lowering of duties on the necessaries of life and on raw materials.

It also gives the leading points in the condition of the public debt, and on the silver question; reaffirms the opinions on this question expressed last year, and points in corroboration of them to the increased exportation of gold; recommends the appointment of an additional Federal judge in this district to cope with the increasing revenue litigation; reproduces the leading points in the reports of the Departments of War and Justice and of the Post-office; urges strongly the vote of additional money and the appointment of a commission to hasten the process of transforming the Indians into farmers settled on their own land in severalty, which is now going on far too slowly; dwells on the way in which the various land laws have been perverted from their original design in the interest of speculators, and recommends the repeal of the preëmption, timber-culture, and desert land acts; exposes the extent to which the benefits of the pension laws are unequally divided, through evasions and perversions secured by political influence; and, after a few words about the Patent Bureau and the Pacific railroads, recommends the bestowal of powers of arbitration on the Labor Bureau, but does not say whether the decisions of the arbitrators should have the force of law, or if so, how they would be carried into execution, or what reason there is for supposing that the infrequency of arbitration now in labor disputes is due to the difficulty of finding an arbitrator. The truth is, that it is due either to the unwillingness of the parties to arbitrate, or to the non-existence of any proper subject of arbitration.

The message further commends in strong terms the operation of the Civil-Service Law. It adds:

> "The continued operation of the law relating to our civil service has added the most convincing proofs of its necessity and usefulness. It is a fact worthy of note that every public officer who has a just idea of his duty to the people, testifies to the value of this reform. Its stanchest friends are found among those who understand it best, and its warmest supporters are those who are restrained and protected by its requirements
>
> "The meaning of such restraint and protection is not appreciated by those who want places under the Government, regardless of merit and efficiency, nor by those who insist that the selection for such places should rest upon a proper credential showing active partisan work. They mean to public officers, if not their lives, the only opportunity afforded them to attend to public business, and they mean to the good people of the country the better performance of the work of their Government.
>
> "It is exceedingly strange that the scope and nature of this reform are so little understood, and that so many things not included within its plan are called by its name. When cavil yields more fully to examination, the system will have large additions to the number of its friends.
>
> "Our civil-service reform may be imperfect in some of its details; it may be misunderstood and opposed; it may not always be faithfully applied; its designs may sometimes miscarry through mistake or wilful intent; it may sometimes tremble under the assaults of its enemies or languish under the misguided zeal of impracticable friends; but if the people of this country ever submit to the banishment of its underlying principle from the operation of their Government, they will abandon the surest guarantee of the safety and success of American institutions.
>
> "I invoke for this reform the cheerful and ungrudging support of the Congress. I renew my recommendation made last year that the salaries of the Commissioners be made equal to other officers of the Government having like duties and responsibilities, and I hope that such reasonable appropriations may be made as will enable them to increase the usefulness of the cause they have in charge."

This is all excellent. It calls for only one word of criticism, which is that the reform as now embodied in the law will never be fully and heartily accepted by the people and politicians until its principles are upheld in dealing with appointments which the law does not cover. As long as these are made to any considerable extent on the spoils theory, the law will continue to be treated by politicians, with more or less approval and acceptance on the part of the public, as something fanciful and transitory, and the system of appointment for fitness will never take root in American political manners.

But after all allowances and deductions have been made, it still remains true that President Cleveland's public utterances have thus far compared very favorably with those of his recent predecessors both in style and method. He touches on nothing which he does not understand, and proffers no opinions which have not the ring of sincerity. The vagueness which marks his utterances on that Serbonian bog the "labor problem," can hardly be condemned in view of the extent to which it marks those of nearly all our public teachers. Of this fogginess the workingman is the worst victim, because it helps his own demagogues in living on his illusions.

SECRETARY MANNING'S REPORT.

THE report of the Secretary of the Treasury is the most pronounced, radical, and thorough-going of all the communications yet sent to Congress by Mr. Manning. It is not likely to commend itself to his party in Congress. Probably he did not expect that it would. But it is well calculated to impress thinking men of all parties, and thus to exercise a permanent and increasing influence. It is the kind of document to command the future,—because it sets down truths to which the eternal years belong, and enforces them in terms which cannot fail to arrest the attention even of those to whom they are now most unpalatable. The evidence which this document supplies that Mr. Manning's mental powers have not been impaired by his recent alarming illness, is not the least gratifying piece of information to be gathered from the reading of it.

It is something remarkable that the first Secretary of the Treasury of recent years to recommend a retirement of the greenback currency, and the return of the Government to ante-bellum principles of finance, should be a Democrat. Secretary McCulloch did make a similar recommendation immediately after the war, but it was negatived by Congress upon two grounds. It was urged by the emotional class of statesmen that the greenback had saved the country during the war. One orator of the time acquired much fame by calling it "the blood-stained greenback." This phrase hit the popular fancy by impersonating the currency and connecting it with the struggle for the national existence. If Senator Oglesby had said "the one-legged greenback," the spell would have been broken, because everybody would have seen that there was no likeness between a wounded soldier and a past-due promissory note; but the blood-stained greenback was a very different thing. It was a loyal, long-suffering, battle-scarred standard of value. It was the very antithesis and opposite of the traitor gold that deserted us in our hour of peril.

The other ground upon which Secretary McCulloch's recommendation was resisted was, that retiring the greenbacks would contract the currency. Whether it would have done so at that time or not, it is certain that the popular imagination was much affected by the spectacle of the destruction of four millions of the circulating medium every month, without any means in sight for restoring specie payments other than contraction itself. The condition of things now is as different as possible from that of Secretary McCulloch's first headship of the Treasury. If the greenback is to be accounted a veteran of the war, it is quite proper to send it to a soldier's home. Its fighting days are over. Moreover, contraction of the currency is impossible on the terms proposed by Secretary Manning, since he will pay a gold dollar or a silver one, whichever is preferred, to the holder of every greenback dollar taken in and cancelled. The volume of the currency will therefore remain exactly what it was before, but it will be much improved in quality, and the demoraliz-

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ing and ever-threatening consequences of a Government debt converted into legal tender will be for ever removed. If there is any country, or ever was any in the world, that could afford to dispense with a fiduciary currency altogether, the United States is that country.

Mr. Manning's recommendations regarding the retirement of the greenbacks dispose of the surplus-revenue question at once. The outstanding greenbacks are $346,000,000. The surplus will not be more than $100,000,000 per year. The remaining 3 per cent. bonds will absorb it for nine months to come. There will then be an interval of three and a half years before the 4½ per cents become payable. If the protectionists are very much perplexed about the reduction of taxation, let them adopt Mr. Manning's solution of the problem. He does not agree with them as to the virtues of the tariff —quite the contrary—but he offers them an alternative.

That portion of Mr. Manning's report which relates to the "incompetent and brutal scheme of revenue" which the tariff represents, will be hailed with satisfaction by most economists and thinkers, whose private interests are not linked in some way with that pernicious system. The chapters which relate to the silver question, while perfectly sound in the conclusions arrived at, are the least felicitous portion of the report. They are written from the bimetallist standpoint. They hold out the idea that something has gone wrong in the world in consequence of the gradual discarding by mankind of a clumsy, superannuated, semi-barbarous instrument of exchange. The exact reverse is the truth. Civilized mankind have put silver aside, except for small transactions, for exactly the same reasons that they have put stage-coaches aside for travel, except for short distances, and they are better off for the change. Moreover, the pottering of the English Tories over bimetallism is the merest boy's play. Anybody who builds hopes upon it will be grievously disappointed.

DISINTEGRATION AMONG THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

As the Knights of Labor Convention at Richmond in October was closing, an intelligent delegate predicted the early downfall of the organization. "The Convention," he said, "will be remembered by all who have attended it for the acrimony, selfishness, and political scheming which have characterized its proceedings." He pointed out that not a single one of the officers elected "had worked a lick as a laborer within ten years," and that all of them were "professional organizers," who were only in the order for the money they could make out of it. In a few graphic words he drew this vivid picture of the situation:

> "This organization has during the past two years become the bane of the laborer in being transformed into an asylum for deadbeats and paupers, and a scheming school for politicians. Every man who belongs to it now, and does not make money out of it, is a worse slave to intriguers than he ever was to capital, and is his own worst enemy. He is a tool and a dupe."

The few weeks which have elapsed since the Richmond Convention have strikingly confirmed the diagnosis and prediction of this clear-headed workingman. The great strike in the Chicago packing-houses illustrated the way in which the order had been converted into a scheming school for politicians, and demonstrated that the men who obey these politicians are worse slaves to intriguers than they ever were to capital. This strike was entirely without defence or excuse. After the original troubles over the eight-hour question, the men had returned to work under an implied, if not an express, contract to remain in the service of their employers, upon the ten-hour system, throughout the winter, and the employers, supposing that this agreement would be adhered to in good faith, had arranged to resume and indefinitely continue operations to the full capacity of their establishments. Suddenly one of the "professional organizers" issued an order that the men should stop work, and the "tools and dupes" obeyed. The weakness of the strike was so apparent that General Master Workman Powderly telegraphed orders that the men should return to work. But District Master Workman Butler, who had ordered the strike, had meanwhile become a candidate for sheriff, and, on the plea that Mr. Powderly's order would lose him 2,000 votes at the election then approaching, he had its publication suppressed for days. Meanwhile the employers had been securing a large number of new hands, so that when the old men applied for their former places, many of them could not get work, while those who were taken back had to sign a "cast-iron" pledge that they would never strike again without giving two weeks' notice, and would allow a certain amount of wages to be kept on deposit by their employers as a guarantee that they would keep this pledge

The Chicago reverse is only one of several disasters to the order which have recently occurred. A notable instance is the utter failure of the Knights in their controversy with the knit-goods manufacturers of this State. For some months the Knights had been insisting that they should be allowed to run the business of these manufactories, and that the nominal proprietors should really be only their agents. They finally went so far as to declare that the owner of a mill should not even have the right to hire or discharge whom he pleased, and then the employers decided to fight the issue out. They closed their mills against the Knights of Labor, and announced that they would in future employ only persons who would expressly agree to respect the employer's right to hire and discharge employees, and who would pledge themselves, in case of any grievance, to confer with their employers alone for redress and not turn the matter over to outsiders—in other words, that they would occupy the same relations to their employers as existed before the rise of the Knights. The men who "work with their mouths" boasted that they would block this scheme, but the mills are already generally starting up with new hands, and the Knights admit to themselves that they are beaten.

No less noteworthy has been the recent collapse of the great strike for a reduction of hours of labor among the workers in the tanneries of Salem and Peabody, Mass., which began last July. The employers resolved to employ no men who belonged to unions, and the strikers resorted to violence to prevent them from getting "scabs." After five months the strike has been declared "off," the net result being that 1,300 new men have been employed, 500 old men have returned on their employers' terms, and there are only 300 vacancies for the many hundreds of other Knights who have been earning nothing since midsummer, and are now confronted with a winter of idleness.

Of all the great strikes which have been ordered by the Knights this year, every one has turned out a disastrous failure. There are multiplying signs that the workingmen are beginning to learn the lesson of these failures. The Executive Board of a District Assembly recently ordered a strike among the New Jersey glass-blowers, and six assemblies have surrendered their charters rather than obey a command which they declare is unjust. The "professional organizers" who ordered the strike threaten to "black-list," ostracize, and starve out those men who insist upon the right of private judgment; but such threats from the men who "work with their mouths" only, no longer carry the weight which they formerly did. A secret circular, issued by the general officers of the Knights a fortnight ago, has just been published, in which Mr. Powderly confesses that things are in a desperate way with the order. He begins by the significant admission that the appeal for funds to assist victimized and locked-out members, which was issued before the Richmond Convention, has only brought in the beggarly sum of $14,000 in a period covering more than two months, and he now calls for a levy of twenty-five cents from every Knight in the country as a "special defence assessment." The imploring tone of this circular is in marked contrast with the jaunty air which characterized outgivings from this source a few months ago. "The Order of the Knights of Labor," he says, "has reached the most critical period in its history." He pleads, where he used to command; and admits the possibility of the Order's being overthrown, where he used to boast that nothing could stand against it. "Two alternatives present themselves," he says—"unconditional surrender, or manly defence"; and he begs for manly defence in a strain which shows that he contemplates unconditional surrender as not improbable. The slowness with which responses are made justifies his apprehensions. The appeal was issued two weeks ago, and the Treasurer admits that "the boodle hasn't commenced to come in very fast yet."

It is unnecessary to multiply evidences of the disintegration which is now at work among the Knights of Labor. They are heartily to be welcomed, because they show that reason is resuming her sway among American workingmen. The only wonder is that the madness lasted so long; that they should have contributed of their hard-earned savings to funds controlled by men who were never called to account, and who, with the cynicism of a New York Alderman, talk of their contributions as "boodle"; that men who called themselves

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free should have voluntarily become the slaves of masters whom they did not even know, and who for the most part were professional deadbeats. It is to be hoped that the lesson may be as improving as it has been costly.

PROGRESSIVE TAXATION IN SWITZERLAND.

UNDER a law passed this autumn the principle of graduated taxation will, on the 1st of January next, come into force in Vaud, the Canton which in point of population and wealth ranks third in the Swiss Confederation. It is remarkable that a country like Switzerland, where greater equality of wealth and of other conditions prevails than in most European States, should be the first to adopt a principle which seems to be needed much more in countries like England or France, where inequalities of fortune are dangerously great. Progressive taxation already prevails in ten of the Swiss Cantons, containing nearly half the population of the entire Confederation. It cannot, therefore, be considered an experiment in Vaud, which is only following the example of her sister States, and has legislated by the light of their experience.

The English Foreign Office has just issued a Blue Book containing reports of its representatives in France, Germany, and the United States on the taxation of personal property in those countries. But it would have been more profitable to have had a similar report on taxation in Switzerland, and particularly on the working of the *impôt progressif* so far as it has been adopted. The new Vaudois law divides real property into three classes, which are to be taxed in the following proportions: 1 per 1,000 for estates under $5,000 capital value, 1½ per 1,000 between $5,000 and $20,000, and 2 per 1,000 for estates exceeding $20,000 in value. Personal property is divided into seven classes, the lowest class being under $5,000, the highest exceeding $160,000 capital value. The rates of taxation on these classes are to be in the proportion of 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 3½, and 4 per 1,000. Incomes from earnings are also divided into seven classes, but in arriving at the net amount to be taxed a deduction of $80 is allowed for each person legally dependent on the head of the family for his support. The result of this is, that while a bachelor earning $1,000 a year would pay a tax of $15, a married man with the same income and ten children would pay but 50 cents, and if he had twelve children nothing. The Vaudois law was carried by overwhelming majorities when submitted, as was necessary, to a "referendum" vote of the whole people, and at every subsequent stage of its progress.

Taxation is comparatively an easy matter in a country like Switzerland, where the head of almost every family is a landowner. In England and Ireland, where it may be said of the mass of the people that "they haven't a sod of ground but the sky overhead, and live from hand to mouth, like the birds in the air," the people generally can be reached for revenue purposes only by indirect taxes. The result of this is a very decided graduation of the burden of taxation in the wrong direction. The taxes being levied on articles of general consumption, which are not used in greater quantities by the rich than by the poor, the latter contribute a much larger share of their incomes to the revenue than the former do.

It is estimated that a laborer's contribution to the revenue in England is from one-sixth to one-twelfth of his earnings; while a man with an income of £1,000 a year, and the income tax standing at eight pence, would not pay more than one-twentieth, and those with larger incomes a very much smaller proportion. Customs duties being levied in England by weight and not ad valorem, it also falls out that the consumers of cheap tea, tobacco, and spirits pay 200 to 300 per cent. more duty than is paid on the finer qualities of these matters. The establishment of equality of taxation would involve an entire recasting of the fiscal system of the United Kingdom, and if the principles of "equality of sacrifice," the exemption of necessaries, and the taxation of superfluities, be aimed at, a very steep gradient of taxation would be applied to the larger fortunes in England. The people in England are scarcely aware of the fiscal oppression to which they are subjected. The subject is, however, a coming one, and hints are likely to be taken from the recent legislation in Switzerland on this matter.

In protectionist countries like our own, where indirect taxes are esteemed beneficial, even apart from the revenue they yield, and where the burning question is how to reduce the surplus in the national Treasury so as not to hurt anybody, any income tax, either progressive or proportional, will be merely a dream of doctrinaires so long as such fiscal notions prevail. An income tax for State and local purposes would be impracticable here, on account of the ease with which the payer might avoid it by removing from the State or city where it was enforced to one where a different system prevailed. It will be interesting to see what effect the progressive tax has on the owners of movable property in the Canton Vaud.

DOES GERMANY ANTICIPATE WAR?

BY a law of 1880 the peace effective of the German army was fixed until March 31, 1888. Fully sixteen months before the expiration of that term, the Imperial Government demands of the Reichstag the voting of a new military septennate, and an increase of the force, to take effect from the beginning of the new financial year. This is required, the Emperor said in his speech from the throne, "in view of the development of the military establishments of neighboring States," referring of course to Russia and especially to France. And the War Minister declared: "Despite her pacific policy, Germany may within a measurable time be involved in war; for the moment, such a danger does not threaten, but the present epoch is most difficult. . . . The bill is of the most urgent character." "Our rejection of the bill," Moltke added on Saturday, "will make us responsible for all the miseries attendant upon a hostile invasion." But Emperor, War Minister, and General Chief of Staff uniformly affirm that they urge speedy and additional armaments only in order to secure peace, in the sense of the Roman adage, "Si vis pacem, para bellum." The position is clear: France threatens a war of revenge upon Germany, and Russia an attack upon Germany's ally, Austria-Hungary; let the menaced empires be fully armed, and the assailants may desist and the peace of Europe be preserved.

Are these declarations all sincere? Does the German Government really apprehend the approach of war? Is it bent only on preventing it? Or does it merely mean to profit by the present scare in order to secure as early and as fully as possible its new military septennate, and thus render itself in great part independent of the Reichstag? Or does it perhaps arm not for peace but for war, meditating an attack on France or on Russia, to crush out of the former the thought of *revanche*, or of the latter the dream of a Panslavic crusade? Every consideration makes us inclined to believe that Emperor William and his military spokesmen—all of them, in fact, speaking for Bismarck—candidly say what they think and intend. That in France a young generation, which does not distinctly remember the horrors of the war and invasion of 1870, will, at a not distant day, force the republican Government to plunge into a new conflict with the hated neighbor, for the reconquest of the lost provinces and the recovery of the lost "glory," nobody can doubt who reflects on the history of nations, and of France in particular. That Russia—burning with the desire of expansion, Panslavic rule, and revenge on Austria for her "grand ingratitude" in 1854, when she forced the Czar's armies to give up the offensive in the Crimean war; for her share in the transactions of 1878, which changed the stipulations of San Stefano, conquered by the Russian sword, into those of Berlin, dictated by Beaconsfield and Andrássy; and for the greater humiliation just inflicted on the Czar in the Bulgarian affair—is only waiting for a movement of France which would fully occupy Germany, to pounce upon the latter's ally, is equally patent. The present attitude of England and Italy renders the conclusion of an offensive Franco-Russian alliance almost chimerical, but the political constellations may change in the future, and, as Moltke justly remarked, "A great State must rely upon its own strength."

On the other hand, it cannot be presumed that Germany contemplates a war of aggression, were it only for permanently defensive purposes. No amount of defeat inflicted upon the Russian forces by those of Germany and Austria-Hungary could effect more than temporarily forcing back the great Slavic Power. To drive it beyond the Dnieper, and erect a lasting barrier against it, would require the restoration of Poland, and the consequent abandonment by Germany of her Polish provinces, which she is just now fiercely trying to curb in their national aspirations. Neither can a war for the disabling of France for future aggression be undertaken now with any chance of a speedy termination—especially while Russia may fairly be expected to be on the side of the assailed; and for the beginning of a long war, in which the now fully prepared and armed French nation would fight for its

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existence, Emperor William, Count Moltke, and even Prince Bismarck (of whom the oldest is ninety years of age and the youngest above seventy) are all too old. Besides, in a war of coalitions—if such a war must come—the defensive is decidedly to be preferred by those who hold the inner lines, as Germany and Austria-Hungary now do. And Moltke has a good warrant in the late past to say, as he does, "The whole world knows that we do not contemplate conquest." Germany has rested on her laurels for fifteen years, since the peace that followed the surrender of Paris. Were it in her plans to seize another portion of Lorraine, or Holland, or Jutland, she could have done it more easily while France was prostrate or Russia at war with Turkey, than now. Germany has not yet sufficiently absorbed Alsace-Lorraine, nor sufficiently worked out her own internal amalgamation, to stretch out her hand for new conquests. Frederic the Great—a captain—survived the Seven Years' War twenty-three years, all in peace; Bismarck, the continuator in our time of his work for Prussia, is wise enough to desire a similar termination of his career, and is apparently bent on forcing France to keep the peace, while Austria-Hungary watches or repels Russia.

WHAT FRENCHMEN MAKE OF "HAMLET."

About ten years ago Mr. A. W. Ward, in his 'History of English Dramatic Literature,' thought he saw signs of a coming Shaksperian era on the French stage. After a brief review of the French translations of the poet, he added, "It may be hoped that the time is not distant when French art may yet render the greatest service which it is capable of rendering to Shakspere's genius, and open to its creations worthily interpreted the doors of the first theatre in Europe." Mr. Ward's wish has apparently been realized, as "Hamlet" was produced on the 28th of September with all the splendor of which the Comédie-Française is capable. The acting, the costumes, the scenery—all that depended upon the skill of the artists and the taste of the Director, M. Claretie, has been praised and appreciated. But, leaving these accessories, it may be of interest to note how the play itself was received.

In the first place, "Hamlet," Shakspere's "Hamlet," may truly be said never to have been presented on the French stage. The version which the French public is called upon to admire is the old adaptation, in Alexandrine verse, first produced at the Théâtre Historique in 1847, the joint production of Alexandre Dumas and M. Paul Meurice, a very "counterfeit presentment," indeed. This has been modified for the occasion by the surviving *collaborateur*, who has in a measure restored some of the scenes so strangely remodelled by the imaginative and reckless Dumas. Even thus improved, this translation, in the Romantic vein of Hugoic verse, is not a production likely to satisfy the keen or brilliant or even the common-sense dramatic critics who lead public opinion in theatrical matters. Nor has either the play or the performance in general been received with universal satisfaction by these aristarchs.

Several, while finding fault with the liberties taken by the translators, seem to agree (a pure assumption on their part) that Shakspere's plays cannot be represented on the French stage as written. M. Savigny writes: "Whatever in France may be the adaptation of 'Hamlet' for the stage, it can never be anything but an arrangement according to the taste of the adapter. *Notre théâtre à nous a des exigeances auxquelles Hamlet ne saurait échapper.*" The very *bourgeois*, not to say philistine, judgments of M. Francisque Sarcey in the *Temps* have already been given by the *Nation's* Paris correspondent. M. Sarcey is delightfully honest and plain-spoken, and as the last three acts of "Hamlet" had bored him, he said so. True, he was severely handled for it by M. Émile Bergerat ("Caliban" of the *Figaro*), who, in an article headed "Le Père le Goût," speaks of the *Temps* as the official journal *du Haut Béotisme national.* But others, with less frankness of expression than that of the eminent critic, have implied the same thing. M. Ganderax, in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, without precisely saying that "Hamlet" was an *ennui* to him, really devotes a long article to explaining why it was so to others, and he concludes by saying that "'Hamlet' is less fitted to be played than any other play of Shakspere." M. Hugues Le Roux, in the *Revue Bleue*, speaks of "Hamlet" as "Un drame presque informe, enfantin par endroits"; he adds further, "Il n'y a pas pour nous autres Latins de chef-d'œuvre sans cette qualité primordiale la clarté." It is to this absence of clearness that he attributes the effort that a French public must make to admire Shakspere.

The above may be enough to indicate the tone of what may be called the superficial, though often very neat, criticism of those who make it their business to enlighten the world concerning recent theatrical performances in Paris. But by the side of, or rather above, these there is a class of critics who do not base their judgment upon the uncertain reception of a play by any public. Thus, when M. Sarcey spoke slightingly of the "Midsummer Night's Dream," calling it a *féerie*, M. Adrien Remacle, in the *Revue Contemporaine*, answered in an article showing the highest appreciation of the poetry of Shakspere, to which the critic of the *Temps* is entirely insensible. The representations of "Hamlet" at the Comédie-Française served as a pretext, as the Paris correspondent of the *Bibliothèque Universelle* very aptly says, for all those "who had an explanation of the character of the hero in their desk or in their head, to give us their theory; and it has turned out that the number of these was great." Not all were new, it may be added.

First in importance, a few days before the performance, appeared the long article by M. Émile de Laveleye in the *Revue Bleue* (Sept. 25). In the eyes of this distinguished political economist, *Hamlet* is pessimism itself. "To the question: Is life worth living? he answers, No, a thousand times no." But the pessimism of *Hamlet* is not that of Schopenhauer and of Hartmann, nor is it the personal and selfish feeling depicted in certain novels. "It is in the poem of Job that I find the explanation of the hopelessness and of the pessimism of *Hamlet*. The problem that disturbs Job is this: How comes it, if God is just, that the wicked triumphs and the righteous is unhappy? . . . *Si Hamlet n'accomplit pas la vengeance que le fantôme lui a commandé, c'est parce qu'il porte le deuil de la justice encore plus que celui de son père.*"

Another article, full of thought, is that of M. Colani, who gives his views in the *République Française* (Oct. 14), without having seen the play at the Théâtre-Français or even read the translation of Dumas and M. Meurice. M. Colani finds the explanation of *Hamlet's* weakness, of his incapacity for action, not "in his temperament, but in the critical spirit of dialectics: . . . he reflects too much to act." He is absorbed in the contemplation of that unexplainable thing called life. All this M. Colani supports by very apt quotations of passages admirably translated. This summary statement of his view does not do justice to his essay, which will deserve a place in Shaksperian literature.

M. Jules Lemaitre, who is now the theatrical critic of the *Journal des Débats*, seldom limits himself to a notice of a play as performed; but in the case of "Hamlet" he allowed himself to be carried away by the admirable acting of Mounet-Sully. The result is a charming account of the whole, as if he were telling a dream. He closes with a very pretty fancy of what Racine would have made of *Hamlet* if he had taken him as his hero; and he tells us Racine would have said "here and there some things that would be deep without seeming so, and we could find in his *Hamlet* romanticism, and pessimism, and whatever we pleased. . . . Only he would be easier to define."

This long, yet very incomplete, review of French opinions about "Hamlet" must close with the mention of the excellent notice by M. Léopold Lacour in the *Nouvelle Revue* (Oct. 15). His theory is not very different from that of Goethe in "Wilhelm Meister": "Tout le caractère est dans l'effort d'une très grande âme pour se tromper sans y réussir, parce que la destinée, tragiquement ironique, l'a mise aux prises avec un devoir trop lourd." He begins his remarks about the performance at the Français by regretting that a new translation was not called for, and he rightly asks for a translation in prose. In conclusion, it is not too much to say that the French public will not be able to have any adequate conception of Shakspere's dramatic power until some enterprising manager has the courage to break with the ridiculous tradition which imprisons tragedy on the French stage in the fetters of Alexandrine verse. And if it is asking too much to wish to have the plays in their entirety, let them at least be only reasonably shortened, and lightened as they often have been in England and America, not changed and distorted to suit the presumed exigencies of a public that has never had an opportunity to judge them.

THE BELFAST RIOTS COMMISSION.

Dublin, November 16, 1886.

The Belfast riots extended over more than two months—from early in June until late in August. An exhaustive three weeks' inquiry has lately concluded. We cannot expect the report for some months; but a perusal of the evidence, as published in the papers from day to day, enables us to form some opinion as to the origin and progress of these deplorable disturbances which have disgraced the second city in Ireland, so often before the scene of similar occurrences.

We have no means of fully estimating the pecuniary damage occasioned by the riots (one firm alone put down their loss at £1,000 through short and broken time and the unsettlement of their workers); but regarding loss of life and limb, we have ample evidence, apart from that laid before the Commission, in a late Parliamentary 'Return of Officers and Men of the Military and Constabulary Forces Killed and Wounded in the Disturbances in Belfast during the Months of June, July, and August of the Present Year'; and in 'Surgical Reports on the Belfast Riots,' by George Foy, F.R.C.S. One soldier and one hand constable were shot dead; one soldier and 300 constabulary were wounded, mostly by blows from stones—110 of these injuries being of a slight character, while the rest disabled the sufferers, some for a few days and some till the present date. To Mr. Foy's report is prefixed a plate of the "Missiles used in the Riots." The number of cases treated within the cognizance of the Belfast surgeons is put down as 582; this includes, we presume, the more serious cases of injury to consta-

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bulary who were taken to hospital; 396 of the civilians suffered from gun-shot wounds, 34 of whom died Mr. Foy "cannot form an opinion of the total number of deaths." Some of the deaths were peculiarly sad—a woman within a few days of her confinement; a widow looking out of a window. One man lost his hand while taking one of his children from the street. A girl of seven was hit in the temple with buckshot as she looked out of a window; one of nineteen was kicked almost to death.

The Commission was constituted as follows: Mr. Justice Day of the English bench (as representing the law), Maj.-Gen. Sir E. G. Bulwer (as representing the army and constabulary), Mr. F. Le Poer Trench, Q.C. (as representing the Conservative party in Ireland), Mr. Richard Adams, B.L. (representing the popular party, as far as it would be safe for a Conservative Government to have that party represented on such a commission), Mr. Wallace McHardy, Chief Constable of Lanarkshire (as representing the management of police according to British in contradistinction to Irish ideas). It was a strong and fairly constituted Commission, but many of us looked forward to its proceedings with feelings akin to dismay. The Town Council was represented by counsel and solicitors; so were the Catholic Committee and the Loyalist Defence Committee and the Earl of Enniskillen and the Orange Institution and the ratepayers and the constabulary. If the evidence of each witness were sifted by five Commissioners and six sets of lawyers, there was little prospect of a conclusion to the proceedings, and still less of their enlightening any one. It has always been the policy of the Government to buy up the talent of Ireland through an unnecessary multiplicity of legal offices; so that, whether intentionally or unintentionally, our judges, with ample time on their hands, with relatives in the inner and outer bar to be provided for, and with tender recollections of the times when they had to make their way by fees and refreshers, permit legal proceedings here to be unconscionably extended. The first practical intimation the public had that an English judge was in the chair was when Mr. Justice Day informed the astonished court that the gentlemen in wigs and gowns were there only upon the same footing as the general public, and that they, the Commissioners themselves, meant to keep the examination of witnesses in their own hands. The lawyers protested and left in a body, but were glad enough to return in a few days to watch the proceedings on behalf of their various clients. This was altogether a great relief, and probably no commission ever sat here which in its proceedings more entirely gained the confidence of the general public. Everything that could possibly elucidate the riots was dragged to light, every one was allowed his say, and no unnecessary prolixity was permitted.

It does not appear as if the Protestant mobs who formed the main body of the rioters, and who came into collision with police and military, had any excuse for disorder. Great riots have generally arisen from destitution or want of employment, or from some particular craze impelling the mob in some particular, definite direction. No such motives were apparent in Belfast. The Protestants there have the government of the city entirely in their own hands, the institutions of the country are in accordance with their desires. The only cause of uneasiness was *in futuro*—they wanted to give the British public a taste of what they would do if home rule were granted. If they were as confident as they profess to be in their own strength, they might at least not cry out until they were hurt. The riots were commenced by the "Island-men," a body of Protestants, marching down with sticks and stones upon some Catholic workmen, driving them into the river, throwing stones at them when there, and causing the death by drowning of one of their number. This tumult was in consequence of a quarrel which occurred the day before between a Protestant workman and Catholic foreman, which had been grossly exaggerated in the papers. The following is the account of the transaction as given by the Protestant workman himself before the Commission. Though apparently trifling, it is interesting as the assigned immediate origin of the riots:

Robert Blakely examined by Mr. Justice Day. What were you doing?—I was sent to make a drain. Were you engaged on the job with several other men?—I was. Was one of the men named Murphy?—I was not working ten minutes with him when he came to me and said (there was a bit of a height in the drain and we didn't get time to take it out): "This is a nice drain you have made." I said we didn't get time to make it. Said he, "If you got at it from this time to this time twelvemonths you couldn't make it any way." I said, "You need not care, for you have not got to pay me," and he swore a big oath he would cut my head off with the shovel. He lifted the shovel to strike me, and I put up a spade and I struck the shovel and knocked it out of his hand. He then struck me twice with the shovel, but he did me no injury. What took place then?—He said neither me nor any of my sort should get leave to work there or earn a livelihood there or any other place. What took place next?—I went over and told the gaffer that I could not get peace with Murphy, and he told me to go and get my time, and leave the place. I got my time and my wages. I called into the barrack going home and told what happened, but it was mere chaffing me and nothing else till I met with the sergeant and told him, and he told me to be down next day at eleven o'clock. I was there and went with him to the docks, and when I arrived there the Murphys had left. There were three sons and a father.

The rioting, once commenced, was proceeded with. Catholic houses were wrecked. The Catholics defended themselves or became aggressive. The Protestant mobs, as usual, knowing the authorities and "respectable" inhabitants of the town were generally on their side, showed a spirit and determination never manifested by Catholic mobs in Ireland, who have learned by long experience that in a contest with the authorities they cannot count on effective support from any one. Since the riots an Irish Protestant advocate of temperance, arbitration, and the brotherhood of man, spoke glowingly on the way in which "even the corner boys of Belfast" "stuck up to their work" in assaulting a police barrack. Things became worse and worse. The ordinary police force of the city (select members of the Royal Irish Constabulary detailed for duty in Belfast by the Inspector-General in Dublin) proved insufficient, and detachments of men from the country districts were drafted in, besides large bodies of military. The soldiers managed to maintain their popularity; but the fresh constabulary were from the first declared by the Protestants to be Catholics sent by "Morley" to murder them.

Occasions now arose upon which these constabulary felt bound freely to use their arms, which, from the evidence, it appears were not always handled with sufficient discretion—as they would have been under similar circumstances in England. The police acted as they would have done in other parts of Ireland; and in other parts of Ireland they have generally acted without much sense of responsibility, well knowing that they would under all circumstances be supported by the authorities. Hence it is reasonable to suppose that, among both officers and men, there was not shown that patience and reserve under extraordinary provocation which is generally expected of a police force. No doubt, also, many of the men, when once their passions were aroused, were not at all sorry to have a slap at "the Orangers." And so matters became still worse. The local magistrates and prominent citizens, unable to stop the riots, were yet influential enough with the authorities to secure the removal of the police from certain districts, so as to conciliate the mob. This encouraged to further and more daring violence. In the end the riots wore themselves out, rather than were suppressed. The Mayor, Sir Edward Harland, who was supposed by the National party to have rather favored the rioters, came out of the inquiry very well, as having acted fairly and to the best of his abilities.

The Commission not only examined into the origin of the riots, but invited suggestions regarding the means that should be adopted to prevent a recurrence of such troubles. These suggestions pointed towards the maintenance of a larger permanent force of police in Belfast. The evidence revealed an extraordinary state of feeling between Catholic and Protestant in that city—almost absurd touchiness regarding the processions and emblems of the opposite party; separate doors arranged for Catholic and Protestant workers in some of the factories; the genuine belief of educated and respectable citizens that Mr. Morley desired that they should be shot down by the constabulary; the manner in which "the whole respectable people" of certain Protestant quarters sided with the mob against the police. Mr. Reid, Inspector-General of Constabulary in Ireland, expressed in evidence his conviction that "there was a regular set made by the Protestant party to drive the police bag and baggage out of Belfast, and they wanted to do it in detail—the first time on the Shankhill Road, and, having succeeded there, they attempted it in other places." The influence of newspaper utterances upon the riots was remarkable. "Every morning," said Mr. Reid, "we looked through the local papers, and we made a forecast of the day's proceedings by the articles and letters published in the newspapers. If they were moderate in tone, we anticipated a quiet day; if they were violent, we assumed we were in for serious work, and took measures accordingly." Of 3,000 men employed in Harland's ship-building yard, there were only 225 Catholics. Of these, 190 left during the riots, from fear of their Protestant fellow-workmen. It was acknowledged that at one of the magistrate's committees a noted Protestant divine declared that, if the police were established in a certain "loyal" district, he "would arm 4,000 Orangemen and drive them out." Moreover, Mr. De Coban, a gentleman of position and a magistrate, admitted that he believed numbers of the constabulary were Invincibles in disguise.

This full and open inquiry will do good. There is much in the evidence to deplore, showing how long it must be before communities like Belfast can be brought into amicable working accord with the rest of Ireland. But there is no cause for despair. These bitter feelings and rancorous doings arise from the possibility of the minority maintaining its ascendancy by acting upon the prejudices of the English masses. When local national self-government comes in Ireland (and from local national self-government Ulster cannot be exempted), our whole atmosphere will be sweetened, and Protestantism, standing upon right and appealing directly to the common sense and reason of the Catholic majority in Ireland, will occupy a position such as it has never before held in this country—safe from possible injury, self-respecting, and respecting the opinions of others. D. B.

RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN IN ASIA.

LONDON, November 13, 1886.

LORD MAYORS of London, as all the world is aware, are elected for an annual term of office. This official year begins on the 9th of November,

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and it is the custom for the incoming Mayor to give upon the evening of that day a grand banquet in the Guildhall. This civic feast is attended by the ministers of the day; and Prime Ministers, when they have anything of importance to disclose to the nation, are wont to avail themselves of this occasion for so doing. Owing to the critical condition of affairs in Southeastern Europe, Lord Salisbury's speech was looked for in the present year with more than ordinary interest; and in one respect at least public expectation was not disappointed. The speech contained a clear and unambiguous statement of the policy which commended itself to Ministers in the event of war breaking out in Bulgaria. That policy is, briefly, that we shall not take the field against Russia unless Austria precedes us. But if Austria makes up her mind to resist by force of arms a Russian occupation of Bulgaria, she may count upon the sympathy and active support of Great Britain. There can be no doubt that in the carrying out of this policy Lord Salisbury would receive a large measure of support. The Russophobists are a numerous, an active, and an excessively hysterical body; and ever since it became clear that the Turks were no longer a possible ally, they have transferred their affections to the Austro-Hungarian Government. An Anglo-Austrian alliance might not go so far as the sending of a British division to coöperate with an Austrian army in the field. It might be limited, as in the Napoleonic days, to the payment of subsidies; but the effect upon the British Empire, and especially upon India, would be very much the same in either case. It would compel Russia to attempt, as a measure of self-defence, that attack upon India which, as a scheme of conquest, she might never have undertaken. And what I wish to show in this letter is the manner in which, by our acts in India and Europe, we have rendered such an attack not simply practicable, but likely in a high degree to be crowned with success.

The stability of British power in India has so far depended mainly upon two conditions: (1) the undisputed possession of the sea-route thither by the Cape; and (2) the unapproachable character of the country itself. The net result of our Oriental Policy during the last fifty years has been to annihilate both these conditions. The sufficiency of the long sea-route as a means of communication with India was demonstrated by the fact that we made use of no other route when building up and consolidating our dominion there. In the eighty or ninety years through which this process was going on, we were also engaged in a series of wars with Spain, France, and the United States; but the passage of our troops to and from India was never impeded. If, in the days anterior to the use of steam, India was conquered by way of the Cape, very much easier was it, since the use of steam, to maintain our conquest. Steam, indeed, has all but bridged the ocean. In the fast-steaming ships now built, a voyage to India by the Cape occupies only a week longer than a voyage through the Suez Canal, while the climate experienced during the voyage is far less trying to the health of the troops. Notwithstanding these obvious considerations, our policy has uniformly been to neglect the long sea-route, and to multiply precautions in order, as we supposed, to hold the Mediterranean route safely under all contingencies. For this purpose our available military resources—not large at any time—are grievously diminished by the provisions of garrisons for Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Alexandria, and Cairo, although there is not one of these places that is of any national utility to us except upon the mistaken hypothesis that there exists no alternative route to India. This, if it stood alone, would be a serious misfortune, but it is by no means the gravest consequence of our Eastern policy. This scattering of British garrisons all along the Mediterranean and in Egypt involves us, of necessity, in the troubled politics of Southeastern Europe, and places us in a position of direct antagonism to two first-rate military Powers, the French Republic and the Russian Empire.

It is sometimes said that, independently of political considerations, our commercial interest in the Suez Canal is sufficient alone to justify our occupation of Egypt. This is a mistake. It is the greatness of that interest which gives it an exceptional security. The solvency of the canal depends upon the vast bulk of British traffic passing through it undiminished and unimpeded; and thus the Mediterranean sea-ports, whose commercial existence may be said to depend upon the canal, are even more interested than Great Britain herself in the secure passage of British commerce. On the other hand, a British occupation of Egypt indefinitely prolonged is what the French Republic will not and, indeed, cannot endure. There are two motives which would force her to resist it—the one sentimental, the other of a very positive character. France is herself the great Mediterranean Power, and she regards with not unnatural jealousy any action on the part of Great Britain which would lead to an extension of our power there. It is an open secret that at the Berlin Congress Lords Salisbury and Beaconsfield obtained the consent of the French Government to their acquisition of Cyprus by undertaking to offer no opposition to French aggression upon Tunis. But besides the sentimental objection, it is impossible for France to acquiesce in the reduction of Egypt to a British province, because through Egypt is her *only* route to her possessions in the China seas. So long as Europe is tranquil, it is not likely that France will break the peace in order to force us out of Egypt; but should we be engaged in hostilities with any other Power, France will assuredly insist upon the evacuation of Egypt, or, in the event of a refusal, enter into active alliance with our enemies.

Now, throughout the long development of (as it may be termed) this Mediterranean policy of ours, French hostility to it has been treated by our politicians as "une quantité négligeable." These precautions have been dictated by an overwhelming and senseless fear of Russia, as regards whom the reasoning of the British Russophobist is something like this: The Russian Government is a military autocracy which is aggressive by nature and necessity. The exhausting character of its rule compels it continually to penetrate to new regions in order to recruit its resources, and it is the operation of this necessity which must, sooner or later, cause it to undertake the invasion of India. It looks to this rich land as an ultimate compensation for the capital it is investing in the conquest of the sterile uplands of Central Asia. But the possession of Constantinople and free egress to the Mediterranean were also held by our Russophobists to be objects of Russian ambition quite as fondly cherished as the conquest of India. Now, assuming this to have been a correct diagnosis of Russian policy, it was obvious that the more freely Russia was allowed to expand in the direction of the Mediterranean, the less rapid and determined would be her advance in the direction of India. On the other hand, it was equally obvious that if we set ourselves deliberately to oppose and thwart Russia in Europe, we should drive her in self-defence to neutralize our enmity by menacing us in India. Nevertheless, from the Russo-Turkish war of 1828 down to Lord Salisbury's speech a few days ago in the Guildhall, we have acted as if we, beyond any other European Power, were vitally interested in Russia *not* getting to Constantinople. It is not merely that we have systematically worked against Russia, quite regardless whether her wishes were just or unjust, but that we have kindled feelings of the bitterest resentment in the minds of her people, by insults, calumnies, and incessant scoldings. At present, if Lord Salisbury's speech is to be accepted as a correct account of the situation, the result of all these "meddlings and muddlings" is this: In order to secure our hold upon India we have occupied Egypt, thereby drawing down upon us the hostility of the French Republic, and, in the event of a war, transforming the Porte into an ally of Russia. Yet, not satisfied with this, so fearful are we still of Russia getting to Constantinople, that in case of Austria declaring war against her, we shall strike into the conflict as the ally of the latter.

The other half of the story has now to be told. While in Southeastern Europe and in Egypt we have been pouring out British blood and treasure in order to reap a tremendous harvest of danger and difficulty, we have in India pursued a policy which has literally thrown open to a Russian invasion that naturally impregnable country. I have not space to follow this fatal policy from its genesis to the present time. It originated, of course, with the ill-starred invasion of Afghanistan in 1838. The conquest of Sind and the annexation of the Punjab were critical periods in its development. The mischief was completed when the British authorities in Kabul placed the present Amir on the throne; and the operations of Sir P. Lumsden's Afghan Boundary Commission may be described as "the crowning of the edifice." The result of all this policy has been that the frontier of our Indian Empire has been transferred from the Indus, where, entrenched behind the mountain barrier formed by the plateau of Afghanistan, we were practically unassailable, to the farther frontier of Afghanistan, where Russia can assail us under conditions of advantage which place her success almost beyond the reach of doubt. Both internally and externally our hold upon India has been alarmingly weakened by the policy I have just sketched. India, it must be remembered, is inhabited by a people intelligent and civilized, immersed in trade, agriculture, and commerce, and keenly alive to the benefits of a sober and economical administration. Had we given them this, we might have relied upon their loyalty under all contingencies. But our frontier policy has established a most exhausting drain upon the resources of the country. The cost of our two wars in Afghanistan, with their consequences, has amounted to not less than a hundred millions. The expenditure on the army has increased within the last twenty years from a little over twelve millions annually to the gigantic sum of nineteen millions, and is still expanding.

The most serious consequence, however, of this policy was the revolt of the old Sepoy army in 1857. This incident compelled us to raise a new native army, recruited in the main from the inhabitants of a single province, the Punjab, and it is no exaggeration to say that our authority in India depends at this day upon the fidelity of our Punjabee soldiers. But service in Afghanistan is as distasteful to them as it was to the Sepoys of the old native army; and during the last war in Afghanistan not even the temptation of a large bounty would induce them to fill up the gaps caused by sickness, wounds, and death. Thus it will be seen that the further we push into the interior of Afghanistan the weaker we become. Not only do we, in a military sense, separate ourselves from our resources, but, so far as our native soldiery are concerned, these resources tend to dry up altogether. Moreover, it is not as if, in pushing into Afghanistan, we were advancing into a land of friends. We shall be in a country the people of which regard us with the deepest distrust and dislike, who would rejoice to find an occasion for retaliating upon us the in-

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juries we have inflicted upon them; who, with such an end in view, would certainly not hesitate to coöperate with a Russian army.

The position of Russia, meanwhile, is as strong as ours is weak. She is under no necessity to dissipate her vast military resources over such widely divided points as Egypt, Burmah, and Afghanistan. She operates, as it were, from a secure centre, and may throw the weight of her power upon any point that she considers most effective. In the event of an Anglo-Austrian alliance, the point she would select is not doubtful. When, in 1877, Lord Beaconsfield brought 5,000 Sepoys to Malta, under the impression—shared by not a few otherwise sane Englishmen—that this prodigious army would cause Skobeleff and his 200,000 Russians to abandon Adrianople and fly for safety to the heart of Russia, what was the response of the Russian Government? It sent a mission of three men to Kabul and produced thereby our second invasion of Afghanistan. This incident sufficed to show how profoundly the relations between the two countries had been modified since 1853, when even the invasion of the Crimea provoked no demonstration in the direction of Afghanistan. Since 1877 these relations have again been profoundly modified. We stand pledged to the defence of Afghanistan, and Russia is planted, in increasing military strength, just outside of the frontier of that country. A railway now links her stations in Merv and along the Oxus with the Caspian, and the response to an Anglo-Austrian alliance would not now be a deputation of three officers to Kabul, but an invasion of Afghanistan by an army of 30,000 men.

Looking back from our present standpoint to the Oriental policy pursued by us for half a century, it is hard to believe that in all the records of human folly there is to be found another such example of persistent infatuation. Our fixed belief that the Russian Government cherished an inflexible determination to invade India rested upon no basis but a (so-called) "Will of Peter the Great," which was a gross and palpable forgery. In our blind haste to avert this purely fantastic danger, we have succeeded in converting it into a most formidable reality. Russia, with whose interests, in the natural order of things, no legitimate interest of ours could have clashed, we have pursued with a bitterness so implacable that, as I have already said, we are driving her to undertake as a measure of self-defence that attack upon India which as a scheme of conquest she would never have done. We have, at the same time, recklessly advanced our Indian frontier until what was, by nature, unassailable by Russia has been brought within easy and effective striking distance. And this insane course of action we have persisted in despite of the manifest fact that it was draining the wealth of India, chilling the loyalty of her people, and converting the Afghans, whose friendship was absolutely indispensable to us, into our bitter enemies and the friends of Russia. But even this was not enough. We were in possession of a route to India which the jealousy or ill-will of no European Power could disturb, and the sufficiency of which had been demonstrated by the experiences of a century. This safe and secure route we discarded for another which it was plainly impossible that we could hold permanently except at the cost of a war with Turkey and with France. Finally, in seizing upon Upper Burmah we destroyed all vestiges that remained of the former unapproachableness of India, by causing its frontier in that direction to run for a space of four hundred miles contiguously with that of China. British India, therefore, as she now exists, is virtually surrounded by a belt of Powers, all of which conceive that they have legitimate cause of grievance against the British Government. This is a situation without parallel in the history of British India, and, unless it is made to disappear by a prompt and complete reversal of our Oriental policy, which is not probable—perhaps hardly possible—its consequences, within a very measurable space of time, are not difficult to predict.

R. D. Osborn, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Correspondence.

MR. LOWELL ON POLITENESS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: I am much obliged to your correspondent "T. B." for calling my attention to the extraordinary slip I made in my use of the word "politeness" as if it were a derivative of *polis*. I think he will believe me when I say that I *was* thinking of "urbanity," as he suggests. It is an oversight of which I should not have been capable a few years—I might say a few months—ago. Till very lately I never looked into an English dictionary to help me as to the meaning of a word, and to correct a certain tendency to *heterophūsia* (to borrow the late Mr. Grant White's useful word) which I had detected in myself.

I remain your obedient servant,

J. R. Lowell.

Southborough, Mass., December 4, 1886.

FRENCH POLITICS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: A late number of *The Evening Post* contained a statement that the average annual deficit in the French finances for twelve years past was 400,000,000 of francs; the total excess of expenditure over receipts being 4,840,000,000 of francs, or nearly 1,000,000,000 of dollars, and that in time of peace. Starting from this as a fact, there is an explanation which may, as it certainly ought to, interest the people of the United States. I will ask leave to translate a passage from the fortnightly summary in the last *Revue des Deux Mondes* by Charles de Mazade:

"The conflict between the Budget Committee and the Minister of Finance is certainly a most curious specimen of the disorder of ideas, the confusion of powers and rights, in which we have been struggling for a long time past, in which nothing is possible and yet everything is possible because there is no guidance anywhere. Evidently we should not be where we are—that is, asking what is to be the budget of next year, how this budget is to be made up and balanced, how even it can be voted—if the Chambers or their committees understood a little better their duty towards the country. As long ago as March the budget was submitted by the Minister of Finance, who at least did his duty. For eight months it has been known that there were deficits to be covered, perhaps new taxes to be voted—at any rate, measures to be taken to reëstablish financial order, profoundly disturbed; yet it is only now, in an extraordinary session in the last months of the year, that a hasty and necessarily insufficient discussion is entered upon at the risk of being unable to escape the melancholy expedient of 'provisory twelfths.' We should not be where we are, with this loss of precious time, if the budget committees were content with their proper functions; if, instead of confounding all rights and all responsibilities, they left to the Government the dignity of its prerogatives, the right of initiative and proposition, limiting themselves to the power of examination and control. Unfortunately, for some years past the budget committees have come to understand their function so strangely that they exercise a sort of omnipotence; they interfere in the administration, the public services, the laws, the system of taxes, and seem not to be aware that they only succeed in producing disorder and uncertainty everywhere, that they are only accumulating difficulties by a sort of parliamentary arrogance, an empty pleasure of domination.

"The last committee, doubtless with the object of making everything simple, undertook nothing less than the substitution for the budget which had been presented by the Finance Minister, a complete fabric of wholly new combinations, reestablishing the *budget extraordinaire* suppressed by the Government, modifying certain operations, reducing or augmenting certain taxes—proposing, in a word, that wonderful resource, an income tax. So that, after eight months passed in doing nothing, there has just been submitted to the Chambers at the last hour a system improvised, artificially concocted, and seasoned, of course, with the everlasting economics in public worship. But has the Committee, in proposing an income tax, shown even how it can be established and distributed, how it is to be reconciled with other taxes which already reach in every form the income of the French taxpayer? Has the Committee asked in what degree and at what moment an income tax would be applicable, what influence it would have upon credit, upon the public wealth? The ideas of the Committee do not appear to be at all clear. No matter. They have the phrase 'income tax,' in itself a whole programme, and well suited as the ornament of a budget democratic, radical—and chimerical! And that is the way of proceeding to establish financial order."

In short, the French finances have got completely out of hand, as any finances always do and always must as soon as a legislative body undertakes the whole management of them; and as there is no prospect of any reform in the relations of executive and legislature, the financial disorder will in all probability drift on to a new revolution. Certainly a large surplus is better than a large deficit, and in so far our finances are better than the French. But as far as management goes, there is little to choose, and, apart from local circumstances, the above extract might just as well have been written with regard to Congress.

Those who are anxious for tariff or coinage reform, or the placing of the national-bank system upon a permanent basis, would do well to consider that any satisfactory result is not to be obtained through the Republican or the Democratic or even any new party, nor even by securing the election in particular districts of members pledged to the principles of reform, but only by placing Congress under some kind of discipline and control. And that can only be done by putting the finances in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury, and sending him to fight his own battles on the floor of Congress. As the Secretary would be backed by the President, and would have behind him a vigilant press and the voice of the nation, Congress might not find it quite as easy to bully him as the French Chambers apparently do to bully MM. Freycinet and Sadi-Carnot.

G. B.

Boston, November 27, 1886.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE LABOR TROUBLES.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: The Knights of Labor movement was inaugurated for the professed purpose of bettering the condition of laboring men by demonstrating their power. It is well to consider some of the things which it has succeeded in demonstrating. Among others may be enumerated:

(1.) That the Knights themselves have no clearly defined ideas as to what the assumed defects of the present order of society are.

(2.) That they are utterly unable to bring the machinery of their own order into harmonious action, to say nothing of the infinitely more complex machinery of the State.

(3.) That they have not the knack of selecting competent leaders, and hence must fail in any system of coöperative production.

(4.) That the fundamental principles of their organization, as at present constituted, are subversive of law and order, and tend directly towards anarchism.

(5.) The vast amount of time and money squandered in ineffective strikes and boycotts proves conclusively that present rates of wages are

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much higher above the mere living point than has been generally supposed.

It must not be supposed, however, that there are no real evils at the root of these disturbances. Such important effects must be due to important causes. The events of the past year have brought some of these to the surface. We may mention:

(1.) *The reckless intemperance of such a large proportion of laboring men.* Place wages as high as you will, there will still be poverty and distress in the family of the man who squanders the surplus earnings of the week in a Saturday-night debauch.

(2.) *The lack of knowledge of the fundamental laws of trade.* This alone makes it possible for laborers to regard capitalists as their natural enemies, and furnishes a fertile soil for the propagation of any economic heresy which professes to take the side of labor against capital.

(3.) *The decay of a vigorous, independent manhood among wage-workers.* This has gone a long way when the privileges of citizenship, loyalty to government, and the right to earn and spend money according to one's own judgment, are placed at the disposal of such men as Powderly and Irons. It is a sad day for a man when he abdicates the exalting privilege of thinking and acting for himself.

Such abuses as the dishonest escape of taxation, the extortions of railway companies, etc., are not grievances of the laboring men alone, but of the great majority of capitalists as well, and hence do not properly enter into the discussion of what is technically known as the labor question.

There are some directions in which the State, as such, can assist in bringing the industrial system into a more healthy condition.

It can exercise much more thoroughly its primary function of preserving order, so that an honest man can work when he wishes, and devote to himself and his family the money which he is now dragooned into expending in support of an order whose chief effect, so far, has been to cause him to pass a large part of his time in enforced idleness.

It may do something in the way of providing libraries and reading-rooms which shall be accessible to the laboring classes, and in providing night schools for boys and girls who would attend the day schools but for the necessity of earning their own living. A more thorough sanitary care of the crowded districts in which the mass of wage-workers live would also do much toward improving their condition.

The completion of the political reforms which have been begun will take away the irresistible pecuniary temptation to political corruption which has been so demoralizing to the laborers in all our large cities. When poor men are no longer regularly solicited to dispose of their votes for a money consideration, there will be a better opportunity to cultivate a patriotic American manhood.

These are lines in which the State can work without transgressing its legitimate bounds. If it shall go beyond these and undertake to do for the individual what the individual could do for himself, but for lack of inclination, there is no logical stopping-place short of communism. The American people are too deeply interested in the moral and material welfare of American labor to see it sacrificed on the altar of State slavery.

W. H. JOHNSON.

GRANVILLE, OHIO, November 26, 1886.

THE "NEW SOUTH."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The recent election of Mr. James Phelan to Congress from the Memphis, Tenn., district is perhaps of sufficient significance to warrant a brief statement of some of the principles on which he conducted his canvass. An old farmer said to him one day, "They say you are a progressive Democrat—a man of the 'New South.' Now tell me what this means." In a speech delivered at Covington, Tenn., to a representative West Tennessee audience, Mr. Phelan made a reply to this question, from which the following extracts are taken:

"It is the liberalized state of mind which recognizes that a new order of things has come in since the war, and which, full of a broad patriotism, seeks to adapt itself heartily and earnestly to these things."

"In the farmer it means improved agricultural implements, diversified crops, experiments such as Furman made, the reading of agricultural journals, a ready contentment with his lot, but an eager desire to make the most out of it, a liberal treatment of his hired labor, a generous sympathy with those more unfortunate than himself, the education of his children, and an honest pride of character."

"In the lawyer it means the spirit that rises above case learning, and that goes into the literature of his profession and the philosophy of its development—the spirit that holds high the standard of professional honor and professional excellence."

"In the physician it means something higher than a haphazard diagnosis and the index of the Materia Medica—it means keeping abreast with the rapid rush of experiment that from Vienna to Philadelphia is changing his profession from a black art to a science."

"In the merchant it means a spirit of enterprise, a strict observance of the laws of business, an eschewing of the sentimental phase in its conduct, the development of new avenues of trade, public spirit, and an absence of speculation."

"[In a statesman it means] a careful and cautious formation of opinion, but an unswerving adherence to the right. It means a hearty sympathy with all people of all classes. It means, as a part of that recognition of the new order of things to which I have just alluded, to accept in good faith the citizenship of the negro race. They are our fellow-citizens, our fellow-Americans, our fellow-Tennesseeans. Their rights are as sacred as ours."

"The 'New South' attempts to rise above the barriers of mere partisanship and sectionalism. It loves and reveres the emblem of our nationality, and it is proud of all the great achievements which have made illustrious the name of any American citizen. It rejoices in the Union and its wide domain, and, most of all, it is proud that the blot of slavery has been removed from its escutcheon. It says in all heartiness and sincerity, 'God be praised for this crowning glory of a wonderful century.'"

These sentiments came from "a Southerner born and bred, member of a family whose blood was shed upon nearly every battle-field of the Confederacy, son of a Confederate Senator who advocated secession ten years before it was attempted." He makes no apologies for the past, but accepts with heartiest good faith all that has been accomplished. Happy indeed is the prospect if his great majority may be taken as in any sense an endorsement of such sentiments. If he lives up to the principles avowed, he will be worthy to represent his State, as well as his district, and to stand for that energetic "New South" whose patriotism and liberality are as broad as the Union.

Mr. Phelan is just thirty years of age, a son of Confederate Senator Phelan, a graduate of the Kentucky Military Institute, and a Ph.D. from Leipzig, Germany. He is proprietor of the Memphis *Avalanche*, and is preparing the volume on Tennessee for the "Commonwealth Series."

C. F. S.

NASHVILLE, TENN., November 29, 1886.

THE PRESIDENT AND MISSOURI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: However true your statement in No. 1116 may be, as to the effect of the President's policy on the election in Missouri, many of us in the State are just now inquiring what effect is likely to show itself in another two years. The reinstatement of Benton, notwithstanding the President's elaborate defence of his action, has not had a good effect either on those who believe in civil-service reform or on those who sneer at it. And now this is followed almost immediately by the removal, without reasons given, of the Register of the Land Office at Springfield, Mr. George A. C. Woolley, a most efficient public officer, who has held his position for more than ten years, and whose term is still unexpired by nearly two years. From any standpoint except that of the spoils theory, the act is entirely indefensible. There has never been a breath of censure on Mr. Woolley's management of the office, and since the beginning of the present Administration he has wholly abstained from political activity. A few more cases like these, and the arguments of those who scoff at the President's sincerity will meet with readier credence than heretofore.

It seems impossible to make any excuse for the President's action in the Benton case, but in the other we may perhaps prefer to believe that he acted under a misapprehension of the case until we are compelled to believe otherwise. And this is rendered more likely by the present political situation in this State—a situation which must render it extremely difficult for one in the President's position to obtain a correct understanding of such a case, and which makes conclusions, like those of your editorial note above referred to, very doubtful.

The contest over the election of a successor to Senator Cockrell has split the Democratic party in the State into two bitterly hostile factions, and this contest formed in many if not in most places in the State the real chief question in the late election. It is the universal opinion that this contest has been waged on both sides with all the means, legitimate and otherwise, known to political warfare. The anti-Cockrell faction are loudly accused of having betrayed the Democratic party wherever the election of their own candidates was not possible, and of having used the whole power of a great railroad or two to accomplish their ends. The combined Republican and anti-Cockrell parties lack only a few votes of a majority in the next Legislature, and it is now reported that the managers of the opposition propose to purchase enough votes to accomplish Cockrell's defeat, and that they say it will not take much money. On the other hand, nearly as bad charges are made against the other side, and it must be admitted that there is altogether too much in the past history of Missouri politics which lends credibility to the charges on both sides.

Of course in such a squabble every effort is made to use the offices in the old style, and Senator Cockrell from his position is naturally suspected of doing the most in this way. There appears to be some foundation for the suspicion in the case of Mr. Woolley. The Senator is reported to have said on one occasion that Mr. Woolley must be removed if it took him on a special trip to Washington to do it. Lately there appeared an article in a local Cockrell organ accusing Mr. Woolley of taking an active part in politics, especially as a member of conventions; and, though any one might easily ascertain the accusation to be false, this article was copied in a St. Louis paper.

Now, it is, of course, impossible from such rumors and bitter party accusations, even with a definite fact or two, to draw conclusions of any certainty. But it seems as if there were ground for a shrewd suspicion that the course of things was something like this: Mr. Cockrell, fearing that his position is weak in the Springfield district, resolves to make a last great effort to get a change in the Land Office, in the hope that it will strengthen himself and his party there. Accordingly, on the principle that all is fair in war, an article appears charging Mr. Woolley with offen

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sive partisanship. This is copied into a St. Louis paper, and becomes the evidence on which the removal is finally secured. Unfortunately the change is not made till after the election, and the result of that in the district is decidedly against Mr. Cockrell.

Now this theory is built on a somewhat slight foundation of evidence, but if it, or anything like it, be true—if the President acted in this case, as he very possibly has in some others, from a misunderstanding of the facts—then one may still await with some degree of faith the final verdict. But if he has acted with a full knowledge of the facts, if knowingly he has lent himself to one side in this contemptible scramble—contemptible not from its ends, but thoroughly so from its methods—then it cannot fail to become evident to every one that before another two years are over we must seek a leader elsewhere.

PRESTON.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: A recent editorial in the *Nation* on "One Phase of the Social Problem" is most timely. Many questions of domestic economy are quite as vital to the welfare of society as those which lie in the more general field of political economy, but they less often attract the attention of writers and speakers.

In addition to the general reasons assigned for the unwillingness of women to enter domestic service, a few others play an important part. In discussions of this question, three things are generally assumed—first, that all women have alike an instinctive talent for housework; second, that domestic work belongs in the category of "unskilled labor"; and, third, that the little training required for the service can always be obtained at home. The first assumption is true if it means simply that the great majority of women have an inherent taste for household work; it is untrue if it is carried to the extent of meaning that this natural taste will of itself make proficient housekeepers. A young man who has a proclivity for the law does not by virtue of that alone become an eminent jurist. The second assumption is radically wrong, as only the smallest part of domestic work can be so classed. Even the despised dish-washing demands no small amount of skill for the proper care of china, glass, and silver; the sweeping and dusting of rooms is far from being a mechanical process, as all housekeepers will testify; while the divinity who rules the kitchen possesses a responsibility that is awe-inspiring to one suddenly deprived of her assistance.

The third assumption is the most fallacious. Without taking into consideration the number of women—by no means small—who have been early thrown on their own resources, and thus have never had the opportunity to learn at home, it is often true, especially in the middle classes, that the most competent mothers have the most incompetent daughters. It is always easier to do one's self than to teach another how to do, and it is taken for granted that the daughter can learn as the mother has, by the hard road of experience. The picture Dickens has given us of Bella and the struggle with 'The Complete British Housewife' might have been drawn from the experience of many. But it is from the ranks below the middle class that the great army of house-servants is recruited, and it is here that is especially noticed the absence of all the indispensable household virtues of thrift, industry, economy, cleanliness, and general "handiness." It is impossible for a girl taken from this class to go into a family whose social advantages have been greater than her own, and become at once an adept in the conventional forms of table service, an expert cook, a good general servant, or master of any of the intricacies of household service. She has had neither the means nor the opportunity to gain even a knowledge of what duties will be required of her, to say nothing of knowing how to perform them. An incompetent mistress is unable to give the necessary instruction; a competent one has often neither the time nor the patience to undertake such training, and indeed it ought not to be expected of her, any more than it is supposed that a banker who desires an expert accountant will teach the applicant the process of addition and subtraction.

The inevitable result is friction between mistress and maid, which too often drives the one into hotel existence and the other to the purely mechanical work of plain sewing or clerking. The question of prospective failure or success must then enter largely into every decision which the girl makes concerning her daily work. A good cook is able within bounds to command her own price; but where one such can be found, there are a thousand inefficient women who can earn starvation wages by a sewing-machine, a type-writer, or behind a counter. Society is not to blame where a woman who could do otherwise deliberately chooses want and starvation in a city, or perhaps a life of shame, in preference to comfortable domestic service. Society is responsible when it refuses to see that incompetence and ignorance too often dictate the choice, and when it refuses to provide adequate means to remove that ignorance.—Respectfully, M.

NOVEMBER 28, 1886.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your last issue I was glad to see "one phase of the social problem" presented in its true light, and I wish to thank you, in the name of the poor, unfortunate women of wealth, for embracing *them* in your philanthropy as well as the poor sewing-woman and shop-girl.

There is great need of public effort in their behalf. Many a woman who has worked hard through the best years of her life, breaks down from overwork and worry just at the time when she could afford to rest, if a competent woman could be found to take her place in the very kitchen where she herself has not been ashamed to work for years.

It is certainly important for us to look into the causes of this condition of things and make vigorous efforts to remove them. That there are many arrogant, selfish women, with whom it would be impossible to live, it is useless to deny; but it is just as true that there are many other kind, sensible women, ready to open their homes and hearts to any self-respecting, intelligent girl who is really willing to be a "help," They know from experience that housework requires much more intelligence, judgment, and good sense than is needed to run a sewing-machine or stand behind a ribbon counter, and they respect and appreciate these qualities wherever they find them.

One reason why a certain distinction is made, by some sensible people, between shop-girls and kitchen girls, is because of the poor class of girls who have been allowed to monopolize the kitchen work. To wipe out this distinction most effectually, let some good girls, of sense and refinement, who are starving in shops and factories, break through the ice of foolish prejudice, and go into the homes where they are so badly needed. Wages are in proportion to the demand for workers, of course, and the very girls who are now getting two or three dollars a week and are dying for want of good food and warm clothing, will get the same wages and more, with the best of food and the real comforts of home; moreover, they will renew their youth and strength by engaging in what is universally acknowledged to be the most healthful of occupations. To be sure, many housekeepers break down in spite of this latter fact, but it is because of the additional duties of wife and mother which they have to perform, and the various demands upon their time and strength from the outside world.

I know of shop-girls who depend upon having their incomes increased by the men of their acquaintance, and who unblushingly wear the finery thus *earned*. And this brings me to another phase of this great problem, which I have lately been led to recognize as important, namely, the position taken by young men in regard to domestic service. Shop-girls and sewing-women say frankly that the young men with whom they now associate would not visit them if they had to be entertained in somebody's kitchen, and that their chances for getting married are not half as good in a kitchen as in a shop. I am inclined to think there is truth in this statement, and that the whole responsibility for the distressing condition of the working women does not rest upon their shoulders alone. The desire for marriage is natural and wholesome, and we, as a nation, cannot afford to discourage it. If young men prefer to choose their wives from among the girls who are half starved on shirt-making at nineteen cents a day, or from among the "genteel saleslaadies," who have stood on their feet from morning till night for two dollars a week, and are almost hopeless invalids—if young men really prefer such women for the mothers of their children, then women will continue to choose these occupations in preference to any domestic work.

But it would be well for the young women to bear in mind one fact in this connection, namely, the same young men who will not marry girls engaged in kitchen work are perfectly willing that the delicate girls whom they do marry should engage in this same "menial" occupation, under most unfavorable conditions.

Let us hope that the young men and women who do not happen to have the ills of prosperity thrust upon them may consider these things, and set the ball a-rolling in the right direction.

MARY C. GANNETT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 26, 1886.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your article entitled "One Phase of the Social Problem" touches but lightly one of the chief reasons of the refusal of American women to take employment as domestic servants, viz., the fear of degradation. This is, no doubt, a prejudice. But defining a prejudice does not remove it. Prejudice requires more delicate handling than any other human infirmity.

Many families never change their domestics. The writer knows one in New York who, paying ordinary wages, have kept the same servant thirty-five years, all her interests having become identified with theirs. Also, during the past summer, the writer visited a family in an interior town of Pennsylvania, whose female help, the daughter of a moderately well-to-do farmer, could have remained at home if she had so chosen, but took service to increase her pin-money. This girl was filling the place of a sister, who had been in the family several years, and only left to be married, having accumulated something towards her own housekeeping. In the above cases the girls were duly subordinate, but were treated in some sense as members of the family.

The insolence complained of, which is quite unjustifiable, probably took its rise in a natural human revolt against overbearing treatment, and is ignorantly perpetuated as a supposed protection. Let the American girl be convinced that she can take domestic service without loss of self-respect, and she will probably do it. But which can contribute most towards the removal of an

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unfounded prejudice, the inexperienced girl or the educated and refined mistress?—Yours truly,

W. H.

PHILADELPHIA, November 28, 1886.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: When Femina read to me last evening your interesting article on "One Phase of the Social Problem," I was very much pleased with it. In common with yourself and all other sympathetic students of the labor question, I have been from time to time disturbed by appeals made in behalf of working women, and your solution of the problem was to me exceedingly gratifying. Particularly did I admire your antithesis concerning the choice between the kitchen and the brothel. It disposed once for all of half-way measures, and reduced the equation to the simplest possible terms.

Something of this sort I said to Femina in the glow of my enthusiasm. Her eyes flashed ominously: "I would like to have a talk with the writer of that article," she said. "Evidently he knows no more about the real condition of the majority of so-called working women than you do. To begin with, he admits that domestic service is the only branch of woman's work that is well paid, and then he goes on to say that matters would be greatly improved if the women who are overcrowding other occupations would enter domestic service, and thereby reduce the pay of house servants by one-half! But he ought to know that not one in a hundred of the women who are employed in stores and factories is physically able to undertake 'general housework'—the only form of domestic service that would be open to them in the country. Our Bridget"—a brawny North of Ireland product—"gets a good deal of assistance, and yet she is scarcely able to finish each day the day's round of duties. Fancy the average shop-girl or factory-girl attempting to do the washing and ironing for six or eight people! Then, again, many of those employed in stores and factories have relatives dependent on them and needing their personal care or guardianship—a daughter or daughters with an invalid mother to support, a sister with younger sisters. What are the alternatives for them? The kitchen or the brothel. The daughter must go into domestic service, the mother to the poorhouse, the younger sisters—where? And all to what end? That manufacturers and merchants may continue to reap good dividends from the labor of starving working women, and that the price of domestic service may be reduced one-half."

When Femina was done with her protest, which was enforced by examples of cases that had come under her personal observation, I was at a loss for a reply. If the spirit of humanity could be eliminated wholly from "the social problem," how simple would not its solution be!

H. S.

DORCHESTER, MASS., November 29, 1886.

MORE EVIL EFFECTS OF THE *NATION*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The recital by your Pennsylvania correspondent, "X. Y. Z.," of the injurious effect of the *Nation* upon his business ideals leads me to say that I have been somewhat similarly affected by it in my religious temper. And this is serious enough when one is a Baptist dominie in active service, as I am.

Having begun my acquaintance with the *Nation* in early collegiate days, for about fifteen years its virus has been working itself into my political, moral, and religious fibre. Consequently I am now so reprobate, and so given to all-round mugwumpery, that I have actually come to regard the *Nation* as the only upright and downright *religious* journal that comes into my family. Yet I take several denominational papers. That is, they teach denominationalism principally, and a sort of pale pietism incidentally, in the space they can spare after the demands of objectionable and lying advertisements, and fulsome and tricky "reading notices," have been satisfied.

I mean, Mr. Editor, that I am so down-on-all-fours as a religious teacher that I am constantly exalting the *Nation* in my family as a fearless, unvarying, and uncompromising champion of the Righteousness of God. That statement covers what I think now of its handling of every current question. I believe it applies the very highest principle of human action to everything it touches, and is therefore an ideal paper for every man who has a passion to be just. And that it is speaking with such authority as no other paper possesses, is, in my view, *according to the Scriptures*.

As for political kicking, the practice has become so aged with me that I have to restrain myself from the temptation to do it as a sort of civil exercise. And, unlike your "San Francisco Subscriber," I never "wince"—not even when you prod with your unerring pen those Methodist and Baptist ministers who swallow the political pabulum of such disreputable feeders as the *Tribune* and Boston *Journal*, and who have as a consequence become badly spavined with Blaineism.

Some of the religious editors will grind their tobacco between their teeth with the rage of the uncircumcised when they read this—for they all read the *Nation* as a sort of secret inspiration—but they will doubtless consider the utter hopelessness of my case, and, on second thought, afford me their usual modicum of pulmonary pity.

BAPTIST PARSON.

NOVEMBER 1, 1886.

ANOTHER COLUMBUS STATUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In addition to the list given in your No. 1113 of statues of Columbus in the United States, mention should be made of the group, in marble, which was presented to the State of California three years ago by D. O. Mills, a former resident of Sacramento.

It contains three figures—Columbus, Queen Isabella, and a page—of more than life-size, was executed by Meade, and stands in the centre of the rotunda of our State Capitol.

W. H. BEATTY.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., November 24, 1886.

Notes.

GEO. ROUTLEDGE & SONS will bring out immediately an English version of Alphonse Daudet's amusing 'Tartarin on the Alps,' in the same charming style of decoration that characterized the second French edition, one of the daintiest of recent books.

The Huguenot Society of America will put on sale with Thomas Whittaker one hundred copies of their 'Collections, Vol. I.'

In a few weeks Mr. J. B. Harrison, 1316 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, will be prepared to send gratis, on application, a report of his observations among the Western Indians during a six months' journey, with especial reference to their advance in civilization on the reservations, from Nebraska to the Pacific. Mr. Harrison went out as the special correspondent of the Boston *Herald*.

A collection of short stories by Andrew Lang, entitled 'In the Wrong Paradise, and Other Stories,' and J. A. Symonds's 'Sir Philip Sidney,' in the 'English Men of Letters' Series, will be published by Harper & Bros.

The 'Dante Handbook' promised by Ginn & Co. is translated from the Italian of Giovanni A. Scartazzini, with notes and additions, by Thomas Davidson, and will appear about January 1, 1887. Its bibliographies constitute a main feature.

Ticknor & Co. announce for immediate publication Mr. Howells's latest novel, 'The Minister's Charge'; 'Liber Amoris: Being the Book of Love of Brother Aurelius,' a romance in rhythm of the period of the Minnesingers, with scenes laid at Padua, and in the Rhineland and Auvergne, by Henry Bernard Carpenter; and 'Goethe's Faust: A Commentary,' by Denton J. Snider.

'How Shall My Child be Taught?' by Mrs. Louisa Parsons Hopkins, and a 'Young People's History of Ireland,' by George Makepeace Towle, are in the press of Lee & Shepard, Boston.

'How?'—instruction in games, tricks, toy-making, etc.—will be published by Worthington Co.

Prang & Co., Boston, have in preparation 'The Use of Models in Primary Schools,' fully illustrated.

We have received the Trow City Directory Co.'s 'Metropolitan Directory of Selected Names, arranged by streets and suburban towns within a radius of twenty-five miles of New York city, for the year ending November 1, 1887—the second volume of the series. One obvious use of such a work is to supersede private lists of addresses for social purposes; but, as the present preface states, tradesmen have been quick to find their account in it, and it may be guaranteed to maintain the supply of circulars which fall like snow-flakes into one's post-office box. As this opportunity is often abused, the owners of unselected names have some consolation.

The opening number of the "Collections of the Bostonian Society" is, very appropriately, a paper on the first settler, William Blaxton, by Mr. Thomas C. Amory. It is chiefly devoted to showing the position of his house and orchards on the western slope of Beacon Hill, and an attempt to establish his descent from the ancient family of Blakiston. The next number will probably be a reprint of Mr. W. H. Whitmore's illustrated pamphlet descriptive of Abel Bowen, the engraver, and his works.

Under the title, 'Two Pilgrims' Progress' (Roberts Bros., Boston, 1886), Joseph and Elizabeth Robins Pennell have collected the magazine papers in which they described their journey from Florence to Rome, via Sienna and Perugia, by tricycle. The trip was full of incident and pleasure, and has been prettily illustrated by cuts; the text itself is agreeable and very faithful to the actualities of travel in Italy. At the close is an interesting comparison of the experience of Hawthorne by vetturino with that of the Pennells by tricycle, much to the advantage of the latter mode of locomotion; and at the beginning is a graceful light poem by Charles G. Leland, by way of introduction. It makes a very pretty and entertaining holiday volume.

'A Trip around the World' is the title of a sumptuously illustrated square octavo volume, published by M. & R. Burgheim of Cincinnati, and written by Mr. George Moerlein. The hundred and half-score lithographs are reproduced from photographs, and are colored in the tints of the original costumes or scenery. The largest number relate to Japan and are pleasingly realistic. One, representing the Himalaya Mountains, gives a most vivid idea of the vastness, mass, and wonderful deeps of color for which the "abodes of snow" are world-renowned. Mr. Moerlein's narrative is an unpretentious record of an enjoyable trip of several months by three young men of sunny disposition and imperturbable

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digestion. Though lacking the spice of D'Audiffret's 'Notes d'un Globe Trotter,' or the brilliancy of Isabella Bird, the book is an accurate picture of the beaten route around the world from Ohio to Ohio.

'Colonial Facts and Fictions,' by Mark Kershaw (Scribner & Welford), can claim no merit beyond the candor of its preface. Some of the facts, we are told, come from a bottle with a tall gilt neck, others from two bottles combined. The fictions are chiefly the yarns of colonial drummers. The book is vulgar and uninteresting.

That indefatigable librarian, Mr. Wm. E. A. Axon, has combined all the previous works of the same kind in his 'Annals of Manchester: A Chronological Record from the earliest times to the end of 1885' (Manchester, Eng.: John Heywood). The town, once a Roman *castrum*, has a respectable antiquity, dating back to A. D. 48, and the early annals possess much that is curious and instructive. Beginning with the thirteenth century they more truly deserve the name, since almost every year contributes something to the record. In September, 1782, "the inhabitants of Manchester raised a corps of 150 volunteers to serve during the war with America," the ladies of the town working the regimental colors for these tardy combatants, whose lieutenant-colonel was Thomas B. Bayley. But in 1866, the American civil war being over, "the Union and Emancipation Society was dissolved, and the final soirée held at the Town Hall, January 22," Mr. Thomas Bayley Potter, M. P., presiding, and Prof. Goldwin Smith making an address on the civil war. Mr. Axon's generous index shows other American connections, indicated by names like Beecher, Garrison, and Grant, among our countrymen visiting Manchester.

A variety of calendars are on our table, agreeing all in having a pad for the days of the year with selections—the Beecher Calendar (Cassell & Co.), from H. W. Beecher, the Dickens and Tennyson Calendars (Philadelphia: John Wanamaker), from those authors respectively, the Morning and Evening Calendars (Boston: Roberts Brothers), from a great variety of writers, and a fleur-de-lys calendar issued by these last publishers, containing elegant extracts from the French. All, again, have a colored design to which the pad is affixed; but the choice will probably go with the text rather than with the ornament. Similar in other respects to the foregoing is the 'Calendar of Events' (Calendar Co., No. 13 Park Row), which eschews literature, and gives births, deaths, and happenings, with a degree of accuracy which we cannot certify until the year has elapsed.

The library of the University of Michigan is to be congratulated on the prospective possession of a good collection of books relating to Goethe. A few months ago a member of the University Faculty wrote an open letter to a prominent German citizen of Detroit, suggesting that the Germans of the State raise $1,000 by subscription and give it to the University for the foundation of a Goethe library, and also that a permanent fund be provided, the proceeds of which should go towards increasing the collection from year to year. The idea met with favor, and in a few weeks the $1,000 asked for had been given and a good beginning made towards the desired interest fund. It is proposed to call the collection the German American Goethe Library, and in building it up the intention is to begin with a strict, and proceed as time passes upon a broader and broader, interpretation of the term Goethe literature.

The November *Library Journal* contains the second instalment of Mr. R. R. Bowker's "Memories among English Librarians," which is reinforced by a reduced copy, in photogravure, of a photograph of the grouped conference of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, 1882. The portraits are remarkably distinct, and, without the aid of the key, one could readily pick out Mr. Bowker himself and the late Henry Stevens, beside whom are Cornelius Walford and Henry Bradshaw, now likewise deceased. A likeness of Henry Stevens on wood also accompanies this number of the *Journal*. The January issue will contain a portion of the new list of public libraries in the United States to be given in the forthcoming report of the Bureau of Education. All those possessing less than 1,000 volumes will be neglected by the *Journal*.

In the December number of the *Magazine of Art* (Cassell & Co.) one remarks the use of color in the illustrations of an article on "Old Blue-and-White Nankeen China" as well as in sundry decorative pieces. Of interest also are the examples (including an etching) of the work of a young Dutch artist, Cecil van Haanen, and of landscape art in New Zealand.

What had already been done for Wagner in *L'Art* (Macmillan) is now repeated in the case of Berlioz in Nos. 538, 539. On occasion of the recent setting up of this great composer's bronze statue in the Square Vintimille, M. Adolphe Jullien pays him an affectionate tribute, and the director of *L'Art* comes to his aid with a drawing of the statue, with copies of very interesting early portraits (1840 and 1845), sundry caricatures hardly less valuable, an autograph score and letter, portraits of singers in Berlioz's operas, etc., etc. The sculptor Alfred Lenoir has conceived Berlioz as the conductor, leaning on his music-rack with the elbow of the right arm, which supports the contemplatively drooping head; his left hand rests in his trousers pocket.

The promises made on behalf of the *Nouvelle Revue*, on the recent change in its direction, are already beginning to be carried out. "Les Livres," in which M. Francisque Sarcey has for some time past written in his light and lively way about the books he has been reading, is now signed by M. Henri Chantavoine, the able literary critic of the *Journal des Débats*. Pleasant as M. Sarcey is when speaking of theatrical and general subjects, he is not at his best when he attempts literary criticism, and the readers of the *Revue* will welcome the change to a serious critic like M. Chantavoine, who has always something to say worth listening to, and who says it gracefully and well. Another of the regular departments which has passed into new hands is the "Revue du Théâtre," which has a very prominent position in all French periodicals. This is now written by M. Léopold Lacour, who is well able to make it equal if not superior to anything of the kind now appearing in French reviews.

Among the announcements of the *Nouvelle Revue* for the coming year is a series of stories by M. Guy de Maupassant, beginning in January, and a novel by M. Paul Bourget, of which the first part will appear in the number for February 15. There is also announced for early publication in its pages a novel by Mr. F. Marion Crawford, 'Paul Patoff,' "specially written for the *Nouvelle Revue*." This is the story also announced by the *Atlantic*, to begin in the January number. If the translation is as well done as one of 'Daisy Miller,' which appeared in the *Revue Contemporaine* in the beginning of the present year, it will be of interest even to those who can read the original.

From the latest bulletin of the Librairie des Bibliophiles we learn that M. Jouaust intends to add to his splendid "Bibliothèque Artistique Moderne" the comedies of Alfred de Musset, to be illustrated by M. Édouard de Beaumont; that the 'Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles' and the 'Moyen de Parvenir' will appear soon in the charming little collection of the "Conteurs Français"; and that he is about to begin a new series uniform with the excellent "Bibliothèque Classique" to be called the "Bibliothèque des Mémoires Historiques," of which the earliest numbers will be the memoirs of Madame de Staal and Agrippa d'Aubigné. His Christmas book is 'Aventures Merveilleuses de Fortunatus,' with a preface by M. Henry Fouquier, and a hundred and twenty illustrations by M. de Beaumont.

Although M. Jouaust has now many rivals in Paris in the making of beautiful books, no one of them runs him hard except M. Lemerre in typography and M. Conquet in illustration. Certain recent volumes from the last named are beyond all praise, being nobly printed and exquisitely illustrated. The 'Sylvie' of Gérard de Nerval (Paris: L. Conquet; New York: John Delay) has a preface by M. Ludovic Halévy, and although it is barely a hundred and fifty pages long, it has forty-two illustrations drawn and etched by M. Ed. Rudaux. Of these the frontispiece is the only one which has a page to itself; the rest are most dexterously printed in the text. There are head-pieces and tail-pieces to every chapter, with lovely little illustrative bits of design scattered here and there throughout the pages as occasion served. The engravings are soft in tone and rich in color, and are admirably printed. The edition is cruelly limited to 1,000 copies, of which one hundred and fifty are on Japanese paper.

The recently issued catalogue of Smith College, Northampton (Official Circular No. 13), exhibits some noteworthy advances of the institution. Three complete courses of study are provided, running through the four years; the classical course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, the scientific to Bachelor of Science, and the literary to Bachelor of Literature. The educational facilities of the institution have during the year been augmented by the Hall of Science, the gift of Mr. Alfred Theodore Lilly of Florence, which provides generous accommodation for the collections of the College, and lecture-rooms and laboratories for chemistry, geology, physics, and biology, and by an observatory equipped with an eleven-inch telescope, and all the needed accessories for advanced astronomical work. There is also a marked increase in the number of students at the College, the Freshman class being nearly double the size of the other classes, and having as many as 110 members, of whom about one-third are admitted to special courses of study, and are not candidates for a degree.

Prof. Cleveland Abbe, in a recent number of *Nature*, directs attention to the fact that there certainly is a purely local and dynamic effect of the wind on the barometer due to the exposure, and for which there must be found some method of correction or elimination before we can proceed much further in barometry. Within late years this effect has been discussed by a number of meteorological workers, but its existence was first demonstrated by Sir Henry James as long ago as 1853. His memoir, however, in the twentieth volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, appears to have been quite lost sight of. During the past forty years, various investigations have been made of the suction of wind on tubes, cowls, and chimneys, and this effect has been used by Hagemann as the basis of his anemometer. Prof. Abbe points out a method of determining the amount of the correction which should be applied to barometer readings as affected by the wind, in such cases as those which usually obtain at the mountain meteorological stations, where the small, closed room, with only a chimney-flue opened, is virtually a Magius tube, that is, one across which the wind blows at right angles, and the barometer within the room must, under favorable conditions, show a depression depending upon the so-called suction or

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draft up chimney. The location of any station with respect to mountains or other orographic features has also an influence upon the readings of the barometer during severe winds; thus, on the leeward side there is a diminution, and on the windward side an increase, of pressure, which may generally be inappreciable, but which still remains to be investigated. Meanwhile, mathematical and experimental physicists are invited to suggest the best method of determining the static pressure within a mass of moving air, by means of a stationary apparatus.

In view of the recent progress in celestial photography, the French Academy of Sciences has, according to *Nature*, decided to propose that an international conference be held in Paris next spring to make arrangements for the elaboration of a photographic map of the entire heavens, to be simultaneously executed by ten or twelve observatories scattered over the whole surface of the globe.

Americans invented the sleeping-car, but a German has invented a sleeping-harness, if we may so call it, that makes the car less needful. Broad straps support the arms; they pass through a noose over the head so that either arm can be lowered, which gives one a chance to change one's position. The head is supported by a pad, which is attached to the upper part of the arm-straps. The back, of course, rests against the back of the seat. Thus the world changes. In old times beds and pianos were horizontal. Now, both are often upright. The new harness is the natural sequel of this change; it will enable a man to sleep in his parlor bedstead without taking it down.

The opening of the orange season recalls the fact that fortunes are made or lost elsewhere than in the United States, according as the weather is propitious. Japan's Florida, or chief orange-producing province, is that of Kii. The southern great island of Kiushiu rarely, if ever, sends its perishable fruit by way of sea to Tokio, or Yedo, as they called the most populous city in the days of the Tycoons. The richest merchant old Japan ever knew was a famous character who, a century or so ago, started a junk-load of oranges from Kii (not Kiushiu, as a book recently reviewed in these columns states). While a long spell of tempestuous weather was keeping the various orange-laden vessels coast-bound, he boldly put to sea, escaped all dangers, and, unloading at Nippon Bashi in Yedo, sold his freight upon an empty market at unheard-of prices. By this success he laid the foundation of his unparalleled (in Japan) fortune of $5,000,000. The streets of Tokio still resound with a song commemorative of the event, and a portion of the ditty, which settles also the geographical question, runs as follows:

"On the ocean, a dazzling white sail I see:
'Tis the ship orange-laden from the province of Kii.'

Or, in the original:

Are' wa Kii no kuni mikan-buni.

—The December *Century* begins its promised discussion of the Food-Question by an economical statement from Mr. Edward Atkinson, which must attract wide notice. He groups together a number of statistics which illustrate the progress of our country in producing and distributing food, in the last score of years, and afford ground for an instructive comparison of the condition of the mass of the people in Europe and America in regard to subsistence. Many telling points are made by the way; one of them being that in consequence of railway development the cost of transport has been so decreased as to be equivalent to a saving of $138,500,000 in what Mr. Atkinson calls the bread bill—*i. e.*, the rate of a barrel of flour per 1,000 miles has fallen from $3.45 to 68 cents; and as 50,000,000 barrels, subject to this average distance of transportation, are needed for our population, the saving is enormous. And bread, he quietly remarks, is but one item in the food that has to be freighted. The average cost for daily maintenance is found to be 25 cents for each adult, and the total annual cost for the country is put at $5,000,000,000. The writer points out that there can be no scarcity of food here, and affirms that the individuals who suffer from insufficient nutriment cannot find a cause of their distress in lack of land, capital, or laborers, but must seek it in their own ignorance in buying and preparing food. The greater importance of this fundamental question of common life in Europe is dwelt on, and its conditions there slightly laid open. In the course of the comparisons consular reports are cited to show that a prosperous and skilful farmer on a first-class Prussian farm has for his own food supply a diet "less in quantity and variety, and less in cost by one-third, as compared with the rations that are served in the prisons of Massachusetts." The article, however, scarcely does more than open the series, with this showing of our own wealth, opportunities, and advancement in the means of providing a living for the working people. Other noticeable papers are the reminiscences of Henry Clay, with three admirable portraits, the pleasantly illustrated conclusion of "Old Chelsea," and a short article on modern French sculpture, which is remarkable for fine and condensed criticism and unusual literary finish.

—Mr. Grant Allen, the versatile writer who, a month or two ago, entertained the readers of the *Fortnightly Review* with his stalwart defence of that ancient and famous institution known as "Falling in Love," shortly afterwards ventured on a review, in the *Academy*, of Dr. Croll's 'Discussions in Climate and Cosmology,' in which he says that that author "has been fortunate among theorists in living to see his own explanation of the causes which lead to glacial epochs almost universally adopted, with or without minor modifications, by nearly everybody capable of forming an intelligent opinion at all upon the difficult subject to which he has devoted the best years of his working life." Prof. Karl Pearson of the University College, London, in the same journal, follows with quotations from the writings of two scientists, agnostic as to Croll's theory, but who will be generally acknowledged as first authorities in terrestrial physics—Prof. Albert Heim, who remarks: "Bis zur Stunde müssen wir eingestehen, das wir die tiefere Ursache der Eiszeit noch nicht kennen, so vielerlei verschiedene Gründe uns denkbar erscheinen mögen. Die Lösung auch dieser Frage ist der Zukunft überbunden!" and Prof. George H. Darwin, who says: "Any speculations as to the precise effect of changes in the annual distribution of the sun's heat must be very hazardous until we know more precisely the nature of the thing changed. When looking at the astronomical theory of geological climate as a whole, one cannot but admire the symmetry and beauty of the scheme, and nourish a hope that it may be true; but the mental satisfaction derived from our survey must not blind us to the doubts and difficulties with which it is surrounded. . . . So remarkable a doctrine as the instability of climate must certainly be regarded with great suspicion, and we should require abundant proof before accepting it." It is not to discuss the evidence for or against Dr. Croll's theory that Prof. Pearson writes, but to point out the fact that "this dogmatism on the part of popular-science writers is likely, in the near future, to be a great danger to genuine science." Before teaching any hypothesis as dogmatic truth, science should wait for an overwhelming probability based on coincidence between fact and theory. "To judge, however," Prof. Pearson fittingly remarks, "by the utterances of some of the 'science' lecturers, more especially those who frequent workingmen's clubs, by the writings, journalistic and otherwise, of the professional 'science' popularizer, we are likely, in the near future, to have a scientific dogmatism hardly paralleled by the theological dogmatism of the rural priest of the middle ages."

—Two recent numbers of *La Réforme Sociale* (August 1 and September 15) contain interesting articles upon the progress of society and of population in France of late years. Some of the statistics are very curious, such as those which show that, while crime in general has steadily diminished in France, both actually and in proportion to the population, during the last fifteen years, certain crimes—among them, singularly enough, that of parricide—have as markedly increased. M. Fougerousse, the writer of the article in the August number, sums up the result of his criminal statistics as follows: an increase of parricide, suicide, and of the number of tramps and habitual offenders—a decrease of assassination and of crimes against property. Under "assassination" he would seem to include poisoning, which, as he elsewhere remarks, has shown a very decided falling off, in spite of the progress of scientific knowledge in the last few years. From the result of his calculations he draws the melancholy conclusion that "family feeling is dying out, the moral sense is growing weaker, crimes that denote the enfeeblement of the will are increasing, those which demand a certain nervous and physical energy diminishing—the country is falling into a state of anæmia!"—though why parricide, for instance, does not require as much nervous energy as housebreaking, does not appear. Continuing his social notes, M. Fougerousse mentions an experiment in coöperation to be tried among miners, criticises severely a bill relating to the military service, and enlarges on a former report of a social congress at Plymouth, England, quoting copiously from a sermon on Christian Socialism by an Oxford canon, "le révérend Percival."

—The second article, by M. Berbiguier, on "The Progress of the Population of France in 1885," is of a very despondent character. We are told that the rate of annual increase in population has fallen from 59 to 10,000 inhabitants between 1821 and 1841, to 34 between 1841 and 1861, then to 26 between 1861 and 1881, and finally, in 1885, to 23. More figures show that this lamentable falling-off is not due to any excessive increase in the number of deaths, which are, in fact, fewer in proportion than the European average, though this is partly owing to the smaller proportion of children—among whom mortality is most frequent—in France. It is upon this small proportion of children, this decrease in the annual number of births in proportion to the population, that M. Berbiguier lays the blame of the sad result already mentioned. The facts are, indeed, alarming. The whole number of births in 1885 was no greater than that in 1805, when France had eight millions fewer of inhabitants. Affairs are worse in some parts of France than in others; Normandy sins especially in this respect, while in old-fashioned Brittany the old-fashioned large families still hold their own. M. Berbiguier calls upon all interested in these symptoms of national decay to make special and careful inquiries upon the subject in their different districts, in order that, the facts once authentically established, the local causes of them may be sought, in the hope that the proper measures for combating them will be discovered at the same time.

—*Volapyk* is a word frequently used in these days, and is the name of a world-language invented by the Rev. Mr. Schleier in Constance in 1879.

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It aims at nothing less than to become the means of communication between all races and nations, so that an individual, for the purpose of travel, commerce, telegraphy, or for scientific pursuits, may accomplish as much with this one language as has hitherto required a knowledge of three or four tongues. The etymology of Volapyk is based on short word-stems, selected exclusively from the English, German, French, and Latin languages. There is but one declension and but one conjugation. There is no article, no gender, and all prepositions govern accusatives. The conjugation of verbs is more elaborate, but it is without exceptions. We are informed that Volapyk has been adopted in various parts not only of Germany, but of Australia, America, and Syria. In France it has been taken into service as a commercial language. It is taught in Paris in thirteen institutes and schools to more than 3,000 students. Five newspapers are already published in this tongue, including one journal of wit and humor, and all of the more than 300 instructors are in regular correspondence with each other, employing for this purpose postal cards. In Holland, Volapyk is taught in seventy schools, and is making rapid progress. In Denmark it was introduced a short time ago by Capt. Wolff, who delivered a few lectures on it and published a small gram nar. The result is that it is taught both in Copenhagen and in Jutland.

HOLIDAY BOOKS.—III.

Character Sketches from Thackeray. From original drawings by Frederick Barnard, reproduced in photogravure and printed by Goupil & Co., Paris. New York: Cassell & Co. 6 sheets in portfolio.

She Stoops to Conquer: A Comedy by Goldsmith, with illustrations by Edwin A. Abbey. Decorations by Alfred Parsons. Introduction by Austin Dobson. Harpers. Sm. folio, 177 pages.

The Blessed Damozel. By Dante Gabriel Rossetti, with drawings by Kenyon Cox. Dodd, Mead & Co. 61 pp.

Book of American Figure-Painters. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 35 plates, with 75 leaves of text and ornaments.

A Book of the Tile Club. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Pp. xiv., 105.

Home Fairies and Heart Flowers: Twenty studies of children's heads, with embellishments, by Frank French, accompanied by poems by Margaret E. Sangster. Harpers. 4to, 93 pp.

We have some rather remarkable artistical books to examine this week, and as all but one are of American origin and make, let the *pas* be given to Mr. Barnard's 'Character Sketches.' Similar drawings of his, representing the *dramatis personæ* of Dickens, have already been noticed in these columns—the second series in December, 1884, the third series no longer ago than last year about this time. The beginning that is made now with Thackeray leads us to hope that other series will follow this one. There are six drawings, each 7¼ by 10¾ inches, the plate itself. There is little dramatic action in them; the study of character is almost wholly limited to expression of face, pose, and gesture. Major Pendennis looks out of the bay-window of his Bury Street lodgings at the passing throng of carriages and foot-passengers dimly seen without; Major Dobbin has a white-robed baby in his arms which grabs at the medal on his breast; but none of the other four characters have any company but their own thoughts. The drawings are as good as the best of the Dickens set, in their way, as simple compositions in black and white. A good deal of artifice used in bringing out some of the figures, especially the ladies, in light upon dark, and others in dark upon light, is so skilfully used that it is not intrusive; in fact, the capital figure of Becky Sharp, erect and fair, coming white in her evening dress against the gray wall and the darker shadow of the curtain, may defy examination into the ways and means by which so good a result has been obtained. Becky Sharp is here as her admirers like to see her, as she appears to them except at the dreadful time, unworthy of her long-headedness and general sense of the advisable, when she left her husband alone in the spunging-house, and lied awfully to conceal her perfect ability to let him out. There's not a bit of the petty *intrigante* in this drawing; she is calm and gracious, a little watchful of somebody or something, but not too obviously so—the fascinating creature that Thackeray meant her to be, *teste* the text, and not the caricatured charlatanness of the pictures (for we hold that the author of 'Vanity Fair' was a great artist with the pen, and said with it just what he meant to say, but a very inferior narrator with the pencil). But of all Mr. Barnard's transcripts from Thackeray, we like Major Dobbin the best. In this drawing we have a most admirable design and capital characterization. The others are Colonel Newcome, in his old age, evidently at the door of Grey Friars' Hospital; Captain Costigan, the least successful of the series, as we think; and the little Sister, from 'Philip.'

And now, as we come to the American books, it is noticeable that these are all in an especial sense glorified gift-books. With the five which are named above must be considered Mr. Hopkinson Smith's 'Well-Worn Roads,' reviewed a fortnight ago. In a very marked and visible way they are all holiday books; and it must be admitted that it would be hard to make up a collection of holiday books, so good on the whole, from one winter's publications of any country in Europe. For, if we analyze them, we find that they are one and all developed out of the "parlor table" books of a quarter-century ago—books which were hateful to gods and men; books which it is a mercy and a duty to forget. Now it is very probable—it is even inevitable—that the reviewer deals with them in a different way, and with a different standard, from those which are applicable to books of higher origin. A book on ancient art, like Rayet's 'Monuments,' or a portfolio of modern architectural designs like the photographs of the Burges house, or the monographs now publishing in Boston, or the costly books of travel and art study like the recent ones on Persia, Corea, and Japan—all these, because from their very natures and their very names they make greater pretensions, must be treated more gravely. But these artistic gift-books are so very much better than one expects them to be, that praise of them is inevitably rather warm and unreserved: though this is not true of individual works of art which they may contain. A picture is to be classed and compared with other pictures; the design for a cover, with other attempts at decorative bookbinding, ancient and modern.

Upon the whole, the best of the lot is "She Stoops to Conquer." Fault-finding here must be confined to non-essentials, as that there is an unlucky, black-looking, underscored running title at the top of the pages, which mars them; that the first sheets were printed on one side only, and with scattered outlying vignettes on the other—an extravagant plan, awkwardly abandoned at page 30; that there is no pretence of inserting the full-page illustrations where they belong (in our copy, at least, they are everywhere except there); that the printing these large illustrations upon separate, loose India paper, tacked only at the corners, is out of place in a book, and is an annoyance to the reader and a danger to the prints. It is time that this last bothering novelty, which came in fashion only two or three years ago, should disappear. But in essentials how good is the book! How admirably do Mr. Abbey's open, airy-looking, unshadowed drawings harmonize with the page! And how excellent are the designs in themselves, whether we consider them as illustrations of Goldsmith's famous play, or as studies of eighteenth-century character and costume, or as a lively drama set forth in pictures. The peculiar excellence of Mr. Abbey's work seems to lie in the vigor and naturalness of gesture which all his actors display—a naturalness which may be found to reach even to discrimination of character, so that if the heads were concealed the personage would be known by the action. The designs would serve as a study for amateur actors, which would give them many suggestions and save them from much bad taste. But, on the other hand, perhaps the least successful part of the work is in the character of face. *Young Marlow* is the most marked instance of this; it is impossible to find the same face in his different representations; it seems doubtful whether the artist ever made up his mind what this young man was like, at least in the face. Of the fifteen full-page illustrations, perhaps half are photogravures from brush-drawings, and these are marked by a certain opacity and uniform blackness of the dark parts which may best be seen in the illustration to that scene where *Tony* meets *Marlow* and *Hastings* in the inn kitchen. On this account we like the pen-and-ink drawings the best. They have the merit of being full of daylight. And it is noticeable, as showing the artist's own feeling in the matter, that when his subject requires a dark picture (and there are night-scenes among them) he frames it in with a firm, square outline, whereas the greater number are vignettes. The "decorations" are head-pieces and initial letters, well imagined in the taste of Goldsmith's day, but modified by our contemporary love for "natural flowers." The lining paper and cover are by a different hand, not named, but rumored to be Mr. Stanford White. The cover is the best of the year—yes, the most sensible design in bookbinding we have seen for a long time; and as it is in leather, the buyer may look on his book as permanently bound (unless he have it taken to pieces to place the plates right and have the India paper mounted), and so will not have to regret the short life of a pretty cloth cover. And this pretty cover is *two-sided*, for a wonder; a complete thing, in fact, and not one-half of a piece of binding.

The 'Blessed Damozel' of Mr. Cox is the other important piece of individuality of the year, but there are few points of comparison between it and Mr. Abbey's work beyond this, that each of them is a pictorial comment on an old and well-known work of literature. The poem by Dante Rossetti came out in the *Germ* in 1850, and was reprinted in the *Crayon*, our New York art journal, in 1858. It has been so altered since, that whole stanzas of it might be quoted in the hearing of one who knows it by heart in its early form without recognition. Only one stanza has been inserted and one other shifted in place, but nearly all have undergone a prodigious revision, perhaps not always for the better, though no doubt the poem has gained in elegance and finish. It is a dream of heaven nearly as imagined by mediæval Christians of poetical minds. Fra Angelico's painting, and unquestioned acceptance of Church legends, acting upon a larger mind and profounder thought, might produce such a vision. The Lady Mary and her five hand-maidens,

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"—— whose names
Are five sweet symphonies,
Cecily, Gertrude, Magdalen,
Margaret and Rosalys,'"

who sit with their mistress in the sacred grove—

"Into the fine cloth, white like flame,
Weaving the golden thread
To fashion the birth-robes for them
Who are just born, being dead";

and the shrine

"Whose lamps are stirred continually
By prayers sent up to God,"

all make up a heaven for which the mediæval Church, Gothic architecture, and a modern mind that cares for both and finds mysticism in one and quaintness in the other, have all been necessary. The blessed lady herself, who is so perfectly an embodied spirit that

"—— her bosom must have made
The bar she leaned on warm,"

who bears lilies in her hand as well as stars in her hair, and wears "a white rose of Mary's gift," who, confined to "the fixed place of heaven," has longed for ten years for her lover's coming, and who smiles for anticipation, and weeps for hope deferred, is in so far a result of mediæval art and the mediæval Church that she could never have existed without them.

Certainly it is not easy to imagine an appropriate set of illustrations to this poem. It is not easy to think of the artist who could make them. Rossetti himself might have been thought the right man to do it, but as he did not choose to, it is all the harder for others. There should be something of Blake in them, and something of Hippolyte Flandrin, if such a mixture can be imagined; they must be mystical, they must be pietistic, they must be gentle even if feeble, and pure even if a little dull. The draperies should be formal and severe, in line, however, enriched with patterns; the winged creatures should have the unseen but perfectly imaginable wings of Blake's Morning-stars singing together, or of Milton's Raphael, or, still better, of the types of that conception in mediæval art. Freedom of gesture, naturalistic grouping, earthly forms of plant and cloud, are elements that should be sparingly introduced. Such, at least, are the ideas which thirty years' familiarity with the poem have called up. Now the illustrations before us are original enough, and we imply no undue following of guides when we say that they are eminently Renaissance and neo-pagan. In fact, it is hard to conceive of anything further from the tone and sentiment of the poem. And, this having been said, let us go on to describe these pictures as they are, premising that they seem to us the strongest work of the year in book-form, and that which is most likely to gain a reputation.

There are twelve large pictures, 6½x8½ inches, which immediately illustrate the poem. Another large one forms the title-page, having the figure of an angel playing the violin; and still another is the "Frontispiece to List of Drawings." A smaller plate forms the half-title, and two others the Dedication and Signature; and there are three head and tail-pieces. Each stanza of the poem has an initial letter with a background panel, recalling the subject of the verse. All the originals of these were painted in oil monochrome by Mr. Cox, and are now on exhibition in this city, being perhaps two and a half times as long and as wide as the reproductions by the Forbes Company which illustrate the book. The illustrations proper are in a pleasant tone of brown. They are unusually free from detail, the subjects being treated almost as in a bas-relief, with very delicate modelling in pale gradation, and the figures made as large as the size of the drawing permits. Space does not allow of a minute examination of the different designs. The personages are not generally attractive. One fails to feel an interest in the lady in Heaven or her lover on earth, and even the Lady Mary fails to charm or to awe, but has a mild and rather unimpressive countenance. Sincerely do we regret the feathered wings of the angels, and of the Heavenly Love in the last large plate; why should that old delusion of bird wings be kept up? The group—

"We two will lie in the shadow of
That living, mystic tree"—

is as conventional as can be. But the charm of the pictures is in their nobleness of design. See, for instance, the picture of

"—— her new friends
Amid their loving games,"

where three draped female figures are wreathed in a kind of dance; and the next one, that one of the stars singing in their spheres, where three nude figures are similarly grouped. These are designs of a very high order indeed. One does not find in cis-Atlantic art figures so well used for artistic purposes, delicate light and shade so skilfully managed, panels so well filled with decorative forms. The finer of the two, and perhaps the finest of all, is the former one, with the draped figures, and we do not know where to find in any similar case a better design than that. It was said above that no comparison was possible between this book and Mr. Abbey's. The statement might have been made general. With no other book can we compare this one, for the works of art which it contains will rather find their like in wall-painting or in sculpture in relief than in book-illustration.

Mr. Cox is also represented in the largest book of the year, the folio called 'American Figure Painters.' This publication, with a page 14½x20 inches, presents us with thirty-five designs by as many different artists: some, as the preface says, made for the book, others found in paintings which had already been seen and known. Mr. Winslow Homer's excellent picture called 'Lost on the Grand Banks,' being now on exhibition at the Academy, is described in another column. The photogravure gives boat and men well; but the centre of the drama, the approaching wall of fog, is but faintly suggested. There is nothing better, however, in all the collection, unless it be Mr. Dewing's "Days"—the gift-bearing Hemeræ of Emerson's poem, following one another in never-ending single file, and offering to man "diadems and faggots"—what each one chooses to take. The majority of men take only that which is least worth having; such is the inference. This picture seems to be a very noble composition. It is pale and faint in the reproduction, but evenly intelligible—there is no place where the work has failed exceptionally, so far as can be seen. Mr. Wm. Low's "Autumn," a girl—clothed in only a chiton and broad girdle—asleep on her sheaves, with her sickle at her feet; Mr. Carl Marr's "Gossips," Swiss girls with their spinning in a pleasant flower-adorned room; Mr. F. D. Millet's fire-place, with raised hearth and window under the chimney, in the good old style, apples roasting, herbs drying in the smoke, and a young woman curled up in the window seat—all of which is called "A Cozy Corner"—and "A Reverie," by Mr. J. Alden Weir, are pictures which we love to turn to. Each poem is accompanied by a selection of poetry or prose; each has an ornamental title-leaf, in the recto of which is a mask designed by Mr. Francis Lathrop, and on the verso the name of the artist and title of the picture. The masks constantly vary, and so do the little ornaments which accompany the literary extracts; these, as well as the half-title with *amorini* or genii bearing an open book, and a sort of frontispiece consisting of a large figure of the Genius of Art, are all by Mr. Lathrop. The two last named—that is, the two most important figures and the only ones in full light and shade—are luckily much the best. The title-page, by Mr. George Fletcher Babb, embodies a figure modelled in relief by Mr. Augustus St. Gaudens. The whole seems to have been drawn in monochrome as if in semblance of a bas-relief and photographed: it is a most effective design. Also, the cover is very much to be praised. Only one side of the book has received the stamp, but that one is capital; the design is by Mr. Grant LaFarge. The lining, with its suggestions of the frescoes in the Palazzo del T. at Mantua, we are so unfortunate as not to like.

The 'Book of the Tile Club' is a large quarto or small folio, it is hard to say which, in these days of paper especially made and of fancy sizes; the page is about twelve by fifteen inches. There are twenty-seven full-page illustrations, phototype plates by fifteen different artists, and these same artists and a few others have contributed about eighty illustrations incorporated in the text—these also reproduced photographically by one process or another. Among them are pieces of sculpture by Mr. St. Gaudens, seven of them, reproduced in phototype, and in the same medium two architectural interiors (from the object), and a sketch made in Athens from the Acropolis by Mr. Stanford White. There are two large plates by Mr. Hopkinson Smith, one of them a capital reproduction of a charcoal drawing, and a number of smaller illustrations. Our old acquaintance, Mr. Vedder's "Sibyl," is reproduced in one of the large plates, and another, the picture of the Pleiades in a sort of mystic dance from the 'Omar Khayyam,' but enlarged, makes another. Excellent is Mr. Frank Maynard's "Portrait of a War-Correspondent," which is said to be of Mr. Frank Millet; and "At the Inn," by Mr. Millet himself, is an excellent composition, a most delightful interior. Mr. Alfred Parsons's landscape, "The Infant Thames" and another, are among the large plates, and among the text-illustrations are four or five by him, all of them having the air of the most portrait-like fidelity to the object. Other artists whose work is contained in this book are Messrs. Chase, J. Alden Weir, the late Arthur Quartley, Napoleon Sarony, Dielman, and Bunce. Nothing is said of the designer of the cover and cover-lining, on which details so much care and skill is lavished this year, but the cover at least is apparently by the same designer as that of Mr. Hopkinson Smith's 'Well-Worn Roads,' namely, Mr. Stanford White. There are then three of these tasteful schemes of binding due to him. As the works of art in and about this book are clearly its reason for being, and as the text has no allusion to them nor they the least reference to the text, it is not necessary to dwell upon this latter. It is an instance of that kind of bad taste which mistakes one's own fireside jokes and significant nicknames for things of general interest.

'Home Fairies and Heart Flowers' is the awkward name of a collection of woodcuts engraved as well as drawn by Mr. French. The little poems serve as that obligatory text without which the pictures would not make up the entity called "a book"; they are in smooth verse, which nevertheless has the better of its authoress so far as to compel her to write gondola with accent on the penult, and the subject is in places so far beyond her powers that she puts white doves in Venice and goes to "Homer's measure" for the golden fleece. All this is unimportant, and the verses are readable. The fact that Mr. French is engraver as well as designer is noticeable, and the wood-engraving itself is unusually good. There is choice among the engravings, but the best of them—as, for instance, the little girl in a white sun-bonnet—are both delicate and strong. The little girl's formless right hand troubles one; also, in the second picture, the kite has flown straight up overhead, on a wind such as never blew on land or sea; but this number two is also a pretty drawing and an admirable piece of en-

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graving on wood. In its entirety this work, if not wholly a satisfaction to the artist or his critics, is yet a work of enthusiasm and real ability, and the promise of even better things to come.

We pass more rapidly over some of the minor holiday productions. 'Three Kings, a Christmas Legend of Long Ago,' by Mary Leland McLanathan (A. D. F. Randolph & Co.), is a wholesome little book. In good blank verse (not so striking as to greatly charm the ear or cling to the memory, but easy and flawless), and in the most direct and simple fashion, is told a tale of King Arthur's time: of how three brothers held in common one of the minor kingdoms which made up the brief empire of Arthur, and of a vision they had and their subsequent devotion to nobler aims than even their blameless and gentle earlier lives. It is a charming little book, not marred nor much helped by three or four illustrations which Rosina Emmett contributes, printed on the not very glossy paper which it is pleasant to see more common this year than before, and bound in boards ornamented with a musical setting of a song that will be found within. It may be well to add that the tale, though religious and Christian, is not in any sense sectarian or goody-goody. If it would not offend the authoress, we should call it a manly little book.

Another book, of somewhat religious character, is the 'Legendary History of the Cross' (A. C. Armstrong & Son)—though, indeed, it has more to do with Christian archæology than with piety and good works. The long and descriptive title goes on to say that within there are sixty-four woodcuts from a Dutch book of 1483, an introduction by John Ashton, and a preface by S. Baring-Gould. The last is very brief, but Mr. Ashton's essay occupies more than half the volume, and relates the legendary history of the cross—how it was made of a seedling from the Tree of Life, and what had been the history of the wood before it was put to the use for which it had been reserved; how the three crosses were discovered by the Empress Helena, and how that of Christ was identified, and afterward divided among the Christian sovereigns and cities who boast themselves of possessing fragments of the true cross. The account, taken from the Golden Legend, as printed in English by Caxton in 1483, is incorporated in the essay, and several large cuts are given of the same story as told by certain frescoes which once existed in Stratford-on-Avon, and are now either destroyed or wholly hidden with whitewash. Finally, the Dutch woodcuts are given, and they have all the appearance of having been accurately reproduced. The cuts, three and three-fourth inches square, printed in black, and the quatrains beneath, in very monkish-looking letters, and printed in red, seem to be careful facsimiles. The binding is in paper which closely imitates vellum, and upon it is a large woodcut of the crucifixion, with roundels containing the emblems of the Evangelists. Little brass clasps, purposely dulled, complete the antique make-up of the book, which is printed throughout on rough *vergé* paper, with red-lined borders, rough front edges, and red top.

The two books we have described are small and light in the hand, but 'The Earl's Return' (Estes & Lauriat) is a quarto, twelve inches high. It is Owen Meredith's (Lord Lytton's) poem, with illustrations by W. L. Taylor. The poem itself many of our readers know as an unqualifiable sort of production, a strange inverted "Mariana" story of the young wife who pined and wasted during her husband's absence for fear of his return, and who fell dead when he returned and greeted her; a tale which is only half told, interrupted as it is, in and out of season, by the author's comments on the situation, and distorted as it is by a constant effort to be abrupt and harsh. To this tale are fitted the illustrations named above, which are of divers sorts. Some are photographic "process" reproductions, and of these there are some in brown, some in dark green, and one in which the principal figure has almost disappeared in white cloudiness, which may be intentional, but looks rather like a failure in the negative. There are woodcuts occupying the centre of the large page with a tinted margin, and there are vignettes and head and tail-pieces. It is necessary to rank them with those in the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel,' as better in costume and in architecture than would have been the case twenty years ago, and also as failing when the subject is difficult. But they are not as good, on the whole, as those in the 'Lay' in the matters of verisimilitude. It is of prime importance in book-illustration, when there is a story to be illustrated, that there should be some feeling for reality in the scenes, in the action, pose, gesture, and grouping—in the presentation of the scene, in short; and the worst of these pictures is, that there is nothing real going on in any of them. The best thing in the book is, probably, the emblematic title-page, although the little head-pieces of flowers and sprays of grass are pretty.

Another, though a smaller, bit of Walter Scott, is given us in 'Christmas in the Olden Time' (Cassell). This is the rhymed introduction to the sixth Canto of "Marmion," with full-page woodcut illustrations, the poem itself being given in small instalments, and with marginal decorations on the pages opposite to the pictures. The difficulty has been greater here than in the books we have named, and the failure more visible, to produce anything like an adequate set of illustrations. Sir Walter allowed himself some very unarchæological statements, which the artist would have been wiser to shun in his version.

We have still another book whose pictures must be judged from the point of view of truth of costume and surroundings, because here also they challenge such criticism, and because here, again, there is no especial artistic merit to give them value otherwise than as elucidations of the text—'Fair Ines,' by Thomas Hood, illustrated by W. St. John Harper and W. F. Freer, under the supervision of George T. Andrew (Estes & Lauriat). These cuts are perhaps better than those above considered, in the matter of consistency of costume. They cannot be praised otherwise.

'Nature's Hallelujah,' illustrated and arranged by Irene E. Jerome (Lee & Shepard), is a book of a very different character. The numerous illustrations are announced as engraved and printed under the direction of George T. Andrew; those which we have examined are signed by the authoress—probably all are hers. The book is an oblong quarto, and the illustrations fill more than half the page in most cases. The poems, which are selected from many different authors, are drawn in irregular lettering, here and there in the margins, or in the corners, or above with the cut below, or below with the cut above. With them are mingled briefer extracts in quotation marks and not signed, and scraps from the Bible, short ejaculations, or suggestions of religious thought. As an introduction there is a prose account of the little children, the authoress's relatives, in their home in New Hampshire, and their longing for spring, and their joining in the hymn of praise raised by all nature when the spring comes at last. Ice and winter are assumed to be sin and tyranny, against which nature strives, and for whose defeat she sings her hallelujah. The whole book is to be taken as of pious meaning, a religious rather than a literary or artistical effort, in spite of the poetical extracts which have sometimes a certain value as literature; and, being what it is, it may not be requisite that the studies of nature should be very good ones. They are not very good: worse caricatures of spring flowers, of birds, of budding trees, and all that one loves in the country in April, we hope never to see. And uglier pages than result from these elaborate designs of long-tailed and straggling letters, mingled with the ill-drawn plants, houses, hill-sides, rocks, and birds, it would be hard to conceive.

'The Message of the Bluebird, Told to Me to Tell to Others,' by the same author and from the same publishers, is of almost exactly the same character as 'Nature's Hallelujah,' but briefer, containing only eight pages in all.

The Problems of a Great City. By Arnold White. London: Remington & Co.; New York: Scribner & Welford. 1886. Pp. 275.

THIS is a book of much grasp and force. We know nothing of Mr. White beyond what is revealed in these pages, but it is evident that he is no novice or sentimentalist. A man who walks the streets of London enough nights in one winter to be able to give as the result of personal investigation the statistics of six thousand hungry and homeless men (p. 229), has a right to be heard on the question of unemployed labor. A man who visits Cape Colony "in connection with a private scheme of colonization" (p. 80), has earned some authority on the question of relieving the overcrowded city by emigration. Mr. White takes "The Bitter Cry" for granted. All that he has to say of the misery of the poor is in the way of diagnosis, not mere description. With a vigor and directness wholly to be commended, does he expose the evils of the system of early, hasty, and improvident marriages permitted by the law and encouraged by the Church. Take this description of the customary scenes attending the rite of holy matrimony in an East End church:

"Inside the church there was a noisy mob; obscene jests were freely shouted out, and every minute they became coarser and more objectionable as the brides and bridegrooms became more intoxicated. One old lady, reeling about, was singing a Salvation Army tune set to a filthy jargon about the joys of married life, while some of the bridegrooms were shouting one to another to come and have another —— swig of beer; in fact, two couples had to be married half an hour after the rest because the happy bridegrooms had 'gone for a booze' and could not be found. It is a striking fact that, out of all the fifteen couples, only one had any holiday clothes to wear for such an occasion. All the rest were in old working clothes, and some in rags. None had any witnesses with them, each couple signing one another's marriage certificate. After waiting till a quarter to twelve, the ceremony began. The curate read all the names of the men first, and gabbled with them through their part, afterwards doing the same with the women, interlarded with a few remarks like this: 'Now, then—you are not saying it after me; you will have to say it by yourself if you ain't careful.' Or to another it would be: 'Say *I will*, and not *yes*, you idiot!' While this was proceeding, the few who had strolled in to see the weddings were indulging in filthy jokes and suggestive actions quite openly."

It is no wonder that the author heads the chapter which deals with such enormities, "The Sterilization of the Unfit."

Mr. White is as dubious as many another before him whether the vast charities of modern cities, with their multiplied forms of private and municipal benevolence, do more good than harm. In fact, it is the excellence of his prescriptions that they strike at causes not at symptoms, and promise permanent relief not through any system of "charity by check," but by more firmly grasping and following the teachings of natural law. The style of the book calls for a word. It is, on the whole, sufficiently straightforward and forcible; but it is weakened by several attempts to be epigrammatic where the result is only

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punning, and suffers from too frequent use of scientific metaphors. These are sometimes effective, more often overdone, and occasionally even ludicrous, as, for example, on page 130: "It [overcrowding] is a plague-spot of furious vitality: so prolific of disease to body and mind, that the stream of philanthropy has exhausted effort in wetting a sore when it should cleanse a cancer, and in dealing with effects when fully developed, instead of drowning them in the centre at their birth."

The English Church in Other Lands; or, the Spiritual Expansion of England. By Rev. H. W. Tucker, M.A., Prebendary of St. Paul's. [Epochs of Church History, edited by Rev. Mandell Creighton, M.A.] Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.

THIS is a day of small things in nothing more surely than in its multiplication of serial publications which aim to give in a compendious form the results of wide investigation. "Epochs of Church History" is a series which borrows its title more than its manner of treatment from the "Epochs of History," which has had a considerable and, in the main, a well-deserved success. Some of the subjects which it included were in no true sense of the word epochs, but it is evident from its prospectus that the "Epochs of Church History" series will wear its title in a much looser manner. How, for example, can "The University of Oxford" or "Monks and Friars" be regarded from the epoch point of view? How can the English Church in other lands be so regarded? This is the subject of the first volume of the series. The author is not a novice in the line of missionary literature. He is the author of several missionary biographies, and his acquaintance with his subject, which is of equal range with the political expansion of Great Britain, is evidently deep and full. He writes with an easy confidence throughout that bespeaks the saturated man, and not merely one well smattered. It is also true that he writes throughout as an ecclesiastic, and that his ecclesiastical pride is everywhere noticeable. The moral of his story will, he hopes, unfold itself, and it certainly does unfold itself with sufficient clearness. It is that "events which are rapidly changing the face of the world, threaten to change the centre of gravity of Christendom, so that at no distant day it may be found neither at Constantinople nor at Rome, but at Canterbury." Even if this hope is regarded as extravagant, an increase from ten bishoprics in "Greater Britain" in 1841 to seventy-five in 1886 is certainly remarkable. Even more so is such a special instance as the growth of the Australian Church: in fifty years from one missionary station into a bishopric, and in another fifty into thirteen bishoprics.

Dr. Tucker's sixteen chapters cover so many different fields that it is very seldom that he can allow a moment to elaboration. But it is the moments so yielded that give his book all of its life and color; and almost any individual missionary's account of his labors would be more heart-stirring and inspiring than this statistical compendium. The book leaves two distinct impressions: first, that the English Church has been much more successful in extending itself in the colonial dependencies of Great Britain than among savage tribes and men of alien faith; second, that the principal obstacle to the spread of Christianity by missionary effort has been the inhumanity and greed of Christian commerce bent upon stealing slaves and selling rum.

The Evolution of the Snob. By Thomas Sergeant Perry. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1887.

MR. PERRY is one of the writers who belong to that new school of criticism which looks upon literature through the glasses of the evolutionist. To them the chief value of literature appears to be as a term of social development. The present slight essay is conceived as a kind of episode of English social or literary history, as one prefers to call it, and is an attempt to show that snobbishness was a sign of the encroachment of plutocracy on the demesnes of the aristocracy in the end of the last century, and grew out of that social movement; and the proof of this is that the snob does not appear in literature before the time of Beau Tibbs. Snobbishness is finally regarded as the "homage that a plutocracy pays to an aristocracy," and is said to have "found recognition, to have become part of the modern social system" at "about the period of the Bourbon restoration." It is thus contemporaneous with the romantic revival, the Catholic Reaction, homœopathy; and Mr. Perry argues for a closer tie between snobbishness and these other movements, and asserts that it belongs to the same family. He then fears that his discussion is vague, and illustrates snobbishness with some pages of Jane Austen's. He concludes that the "vice" is losing the reflected glamour it possessed when the aspirant aped a true aristocracy, and is now nothing more than a "practical worship of the material side of worldly success"—in other words, of the externals of wealth. This, if it be true, implies that the plutocracy has ousted the aristocracy from its place of respect.

These views of the literary sociologist are interesting, and they are interming'ed, not to say confused, with views on a great variety of other matters pertaining to the forms of taste in which the romantic spirit expressed itself throughout Europe. In his main thesis the writer is well sustained by the facts. Snobbishness, as the characteristic of a defined social class, could not exist until the commercial spirit had developed a body of wealth with commanding power in society, such that it could press successfully, by its mere weight, upon an upper class; but snobbishness as an individual trait is an incident of human nature, and springs up in history wherever rank has not passed into caste and the *novus homo* attempts of necessity to palm off the externals of breeding for the thing itself, and strives thus to impose upon the vulgar. Mr. Perry has confined his observation to the modern, and especially the English, breed of the genus; and despite an awkwardness of phrase that is extraordinary in so practised a littérateur, and a very ill-regulated mode of disquisition, he has written an entertaining and suggestive chapter of social history.

Studies in Ancient History, comprising a Reprint of 'Primitive Marriage: an Inquiry into the Origin of the Form of Capture in Marriage Ceremonies.' By the late John Ferguson McLennan. Macmillan & Co. 1886. 387 pp.

THE preface to the present edition gives the substance and nature of the book: "This volume is a reprint of 'Studies in Ancient History,' as published in 1876, with notes added only when they appeared to be indispensable." The editor is Mr. D. McLennan. The original work having been discussed and reviewed long ago, it seems superfluous to bestow upon this new edition any attention beyond commending it as handsomely printed. Still, it contains some notes by the editor on the controversial points between the author and the late Mr. Lewis H. Morgan, one of which at least deserves a passing notice.

In 'Primitive Marriage,' the late Mr. J. F. McLennan attacked the "classificatory system of relationships" established by Morgan, and the latter replied to him in 'Ancient Society.' Mr. D. McLennan now repeats the assertion that the terms used by the American Indians in addressing each other, even when they imply relationships, are mere forms of salutation, and do not establish and define a fixed nomenclature for degrees of parentage. He quotes Lafitau and other Jesuits in support of his views. Nobody denies, or can and will deny, that the older writers looked upon the Indian terms of relationship as largely "terms of address" only; but the fact that an Indian calls out even to a child "grandfather" (as may be heard among the tribes in the West), or addresses a white man as "my son," has nothing at all to do with the existence or non-existence of the classificatory system. The writers of past centuries were unacquainted with the scientific methods of to-day, ethnology as a branch of study being yet unborn; they did not and could not go any deeper than they had the means to follow. Yet it is strange that their minds, unbiassed by any ethnologic system, theory, or hypothesis, should have been struck forcibly by the Indian modes and terms of greeting each other. Mr. Morgan himself passed through the same stage of experience. But he had the merit of going beyond it, and of examining how degrees of relationship were *defined* in the languages of each tribe. No Indian is compelled to call his sister's child "my child," in common intercourse, but when he wants to describe him as a relative, he will (when descent in the female line prevails) use the term "my child." Had the late Mr. McLennan taken pains to examine vocabularies, he would have found the classificatory system established therein. But Mr. Morgan went still further. He traced the entire social organization of the Indians to its base in the classification of relationships, upon which depended their customs of inheritance and their governmental system. He showed that the nomenclature had its roots in conceprions of vital importance to Indian society. This side of the question both the author and the editor of the book under consideration are very careful to avoid, yet it is the strongest evidence in favor of the existence of the "classificatory system of relationships" and of its origin as explained by the late Dr. Morgan.

Die Hygiene und Æsthetik des menschlichen Fusses. Von Dr. Ludwig Schaffer. Vienna: W. Braumüller. 1886.

THE author of this little monograph of 132 pages on the human foot was formerly a "k.-k." or imperial-royal surgeon in the Austrian marine. There is no evidence that he ever followed the profession of a pirate; but as a writer he shows an uncommon talent for annexation, inasmuch as, after a few preliminary remarks, he treats his readers to an extract of no fewer than thirty two pages. But the quotation was worth making, being Prof. Burmeister's masterly and famous comparison of the human feet with those of the lower animals. Prof. Burmeister occasionally errs by taking it for granted that any human characteristic which suggests an analogous peculiarity in one of the lower animals is thereby æsthetically condemned; but otherwise his remarks are just and valuable. Summing up his views, he says that the characteristics of beauty in the human foot consist "first, in a narrow, neatly turned, moderately projecting heel; secondly, in a decidedly vaulted middle part of the foot, arched below; and thirdly, in toes of moderate length, the inmost of which projects most, but must not have too large a first joint. But even with these characteristics it is essential that the foot be, in the fourth place, neither too large *nor too small*, for in both cases its beauty would suffer through a want of proportion to the body."

If shoemakers and their patrons had taste, they would make and wear shoes which follow the natural outlines of the foot and allow the characteristics of pedal beauty to be freely deve-

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loped. Instead of this it has been customary, throughout mediæval and modern times, to sacrifice to a fashionable boot of monstrous shape beauty of outline, grace of gait, comfort, and health. It is alleged that women's shoes are still commonly made alike, without reference to right and left; and that even men have paid attention to this subject only within half a century, incredible as it may seem. Dr. Schaffer gives an instance which vividly illustrates the enormous folly of such neglect. Of 600,000 men in the German army it has been shown that 30,000 become disabled on the very first day of service, from trouble with their feet. The Germans are often unfortunate in regard to the fate of their ideas. It was a German, Petrus Camper, who a hundred years ago first inveighed against the habit of wearing like shoes for both feet, and against high heels, pointing out various female maladies to which they give rise. But his advice was uttered to the winds, for the vulgar and hideous French fashions continued to prevail. In 1857 a Swiss professor of anatomy, H. von Meyer, returned to the subject in a treatise which the Germans again ignored, whereas in England it had sixteen editions in rapid succession and made many converts to common sense, beauty, and comfort. And thus it happens that, as Dr. Schaffer complains, the proper hygienic style of shoes and boots has been lately introduced in Germany as "the English form," though first suggested by Germans. In England not only the men, but thousands of the women, now wear hygienic shoes, while in Germany the narrow toes and high heels continue to prevail, except in those circles which ape English sporting life.

Dr. Schaffer's treatise is so full of sensible and practical suggestions for further improvements, that it would be well worth while to have it translated into English. He emphasizes the fact that our two feet are rarely identical in size, and that therefore a shoemaker who measures only one foot is a bungler; so is he if he measures the foot while you sit, for it is considerably larger when you stand. In consequence of this neglect it is easier for most persons to get a good fit from a large stock of ready-made shoes than to order, not to speak of the difference in price. Regarding the soles of boots, Dr. Schaffer finds very thick soles objectionable, because deficient in that elasticity which is essential to comfort and a graceful gait. The feeling of ease which comes from wearing "rubbers" is due to the elasticity of the material. A novel suggestion of the author's is that the heels, too, should be made elastic by the insertion of some sort of spring. Nature herself indicates these reforms by the elasticity of the fat-cushion of the sole. He further suggests that, whereas we now only take care of the upper leather, the sole should be likewise daily looked after. Neglected, it becomes dry, brittle, and inelastic; it should, therefore, be occasionally rubbed over with wax or some oily or resinous substance. Whenever practicable, thin woollen, felt, cellulose, or cork soles should be placed inside the shoes, impregnated with some disinfecting substance in cases where it is impossible to change the shoes day by day. It is easier to walk in a meadow than on a stone pavement, and the advantage of such inside soles is that one can thus "have the meadow in the shoes."

Those who do not consider comfort, health, and a graceful gait a sufficient inducement to turn their back on fashion, may reflect to advantage on one of the points made by Prof. Burmeister. The foot, he remarks, depends for its beauty almost entirely on the outlines of its solid parts, whereas it is muscular fulness and the presence of a certain amount of adipose tissue that condition the beauty of other parts of the human frame. But whereas muscle and fat waste away with age, a foot retains its outlines to old age, even its fat-cushion being the last portion of adipose tissue affected by disease or age. Hence a well-shaped foot will outlast all other forms of personal attractiveness, and be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever.

History of the Irish People. By W. A. O'Conor, B.A. 2d ed. Manchester and London: John Heywood. 1886.

THERE are two classes of history—the exhaustive and the hand-book or suggestive. Few countries find themselves satisfactorily limned in a standard exhaustive history; Ireland does not. The ordinary reader of Irish history must rest content with works of the second order; the closer student falls back upon the materials for history contained in original documents, in memoirs and biographies. And this may be an advantage: the more a reader trusts to one book, the more he is influenced by a single mind; the wider the field over which his search extends, the more his conclusions are likely to be independent. Mr. O'Conor makes an honest attempt to write a history of the Irish people, but we cannot see that the result justifies the addition of another to the already numerous Irish histories of that class. A history forfeits all claim to real merit as a history when it seeks to inculcate political opinions. The work before us is too diffuse; there is too much theory, too much glorification of the spirit and capacities of the Irish race. The central facts and tendencies of Irish history are obscured in a mass of details and disquisitions; there is too much controversy—as with Macaulay and Froude. The book contains about as much matter as, and more facts than, Walpole's 'Kingdom of Ireland,' but is wanting in the clearness and balance, and, let us add, is deficient in the maps and appendices, which make that work upon the whole the best hand-history of Ireland which has yet appeared.

Our Home by the Adriatic. By the Hon. Margaret Collier (Mme. Galletti). London: R. Bentley. 1886. Pp. 250, 8vo.

THIS in reality is a story of pioneer life, only the scene is not the West or Australia, but Italy. The author, the daughter of the late Lord Monkswell, better known as Sir Robert Collier, went with her husband, Count Galletti, some twelve years ago, to live on the eastern coast of Italy, a few miles south of Ancona, where he had bought some church lands. Their house was originally a "priest's house, with the church and a peasant's house attached," all forming one building, situated on a lofty table-land overlooking the sea. The country is very fertile and rich in corn, wine, oil, and flax, and dotted over with "quaint little towns, all fortified" and perched on the hill-tops. The people were mostly an ignorant and superstitious peasantry, bitterly opposed to any new methods in agriculture or, indeed, to any reforms. Mme. Galletti tells in a very entertaining way of trials with servants and tenants, and a successful struggle with the corrupt *sindaco* or magistrate. The daily life of the people, their homes, occupations, and amusements are very well described, an especially amusing chapter being that on "Courtship." A melancholy picture is drawn of the condition of the decayed nobility, "whom generations of idleness and unthriftiness have reduced to extreme poverty." In regard to politics the author says, "The population around us hovers between the two extremes of ultra-clericalism and red-republicanism or socialism." The concluding chapter briefly summarizes the progress made in the twelve years of residence—a charming home, with lands yielding in some cases fourfold the returns of previous years, attached servants, a friendly peasantry, a reformed municipality, with good schools and well-attended, and a village, "where so lately reigned confusion, squalor, and misery in a supreme degree," noted for its order, cleanliness, and comfort.

The Story of Carthage. By Alfred J. Church, M.A., with the collaboration of Arthur Gilman, M.A. [The Story of the Nations.] G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1886. 12mo, pp. 309.

MR. CHURCH is too good a scholar not to have made an accurate book, and too practised a writer for the young not to have made an interesting one. He has had, also, a subject full of picturesque interest, and one not sufficiently familiar to be hackneyed. To be sure, nothing could be more familiar than the story of Dido and the wars with Rome; but between these there lies a long period comparatively little known, and of this Mr. Church has made the most. The long succession of wars for the possession of Sicily—with Gelon, Dionysius, Timoleon, and Agathocles—are narrated at considerable length, and make very attractive reading. A chapter of especial interest is devoted to the journey of Hanno, whose account is translated and given in full. The book contains a large number of excellent illustrations, most of them copied from genuine antiques. In the way of maps it is defective. The general map of the Carthaginian possessions on the inside of the cover serves very well, although it ought to indicate that Corsica as well as Sardinia was, at least to a certain extent, under the authority of Carthage; but there ought to be a good map of Sicily to illustrate as well the first Punic war as the wars with Syracuse. Again, for the second Punic war, the maps of Italy are wholly inadequate. That of northern Italy contains neither the Trebia nor the Metaurus, neither Lucca, Arretium, nor Cortona. It may be said that children do not need such detailed maps, but this we think a mistake; and, at any rate, this is not a book for the youngest children, but one which calls for some maturity and knowledge.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Blake, J. V. Essays. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co.
Collins, W. The Guilty River: A Novel. Harper's Handy Series. 25 cents.
Conway, Prof. W. M. Early Flemish Artists and their Predecessors on the Lower Rhine. Illustrated. London: Seeley & Co. $1.40.
Corson, Juliet. Practical American Cookery and Household Management. Dodd, Mead & Co. $1 50.
Craik, Georgiana M. A Daughter of the People: A Novel. Harper's Franklin square Library.
Crowninshield, Mary Bradford. All Among the Lighthouses. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.
"Daly, James." "For Love and Bears." Illustrated. Chicago: Frank S. Gray.
Dickens, C. Christmas Carol. Illustrated. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Co.
Erbe, Prof. K. Cornelii Nepotis Vitæ. Für den Schulgebranch mit sachlichen Anmerkungen, einem Sachregister und einem Wörterbuch. Illustrated. Stuttgart: Paul Neff.
Farjeon, B. L. The Golden Land; or, Links from Shore to Shore. Illustrated. London: Ward, Lock & Co.
Farjeon, B. L. The Nine of Hearts. London: Ward, Lock & Co.
Fothergill, J. M. The Will Power; Its Range and Action. James Pott & Co.
Gogol, N. V. Tchitchikoff's Journeys; or, Dead Souls. 2 vols. Thomas Y. Crowell. $2.50.
Greenwood, Jessy E. The Moon Maiden, and Other Stories. Macmillan & Co. $1.25.
Harte, B. The Queen of the Pirate Isle. Illustrated. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. $1.50.
Holloway, Laura C. The Buddhist Diet-Book. Funk & Wagnalls. 50 cents.
Hunt, T. S. Mineral Physiology and Physiography: A Second Series of Chemical and Geological Essays. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Co.
Koehler, S. R. American Art. Illustrated by 25 Plates. Cassell & Co.
Labberton, R. H. New Historical Atlas and General History. Townsend MacCoun.
Larroumet, G. La Comédie de Molière: l'Auteur et le milieu. Paris: Hachette & Co.
Lowell, J. R. Democracy, and Other Addresses. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. $1.25.
M. E. B. Youth in Twelve Centuries. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. $2.00.
Mason, L. W. New First Music Reader. Boston: Ginn & Co. 30 cents.
Matthews—Hutton. Actors and Actresses of Great Britain and the United States. Vol iv. Macready, Forrest, and their Contemporaries. Cassell & Co. $1.50.
McAlpine, A. Teresa Itasca, and Other Stories. Funk & Wagnalls. $1 00.
McClellan, Gen. G. B. The War for the Union; the Soldiers who Fought it; the Civilians who Directed it and His Relations to Them. Charles L. Webster & Co.
McNaughton, J. H. Onnalinda: A Romance. Illustrated. London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.
New Princeton Review. Vol. II. 1886. A. C. Armstrong & Son.

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Plumptre, Rev. E. H. The Commedia and Canzoniere of Dante Alighieri. New ed. 2 vols. Vol. 1. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. $6.00.
Scherer, W. Aufsätze über Goethe. Berlin: Weidmann.
Taylor, Dr W. M. The Parables of Our Saviour Expounded and Illustrated. A. C. Armstrong & Son. $1.75
The Ebers Gallery: A Collection of Paintings Illustrating the Romances of George Ebers. Photographic Reproduction, with Descriptive Letter Press. William S. Gottsberger.
The Mournful Ballad of Isaac Abbott. Cincinnati; Robert Clarke & Co.
Veazie, G. A., Jr. Four-Part-Song Reader for the Upper Grades of Boys' and Mixed Schools. Boston: Ginn & Co. 40 cents.
Vincent-Hurlbut. The Lesson Commentary on the International Sunday-School Lessons for 1887. Phillips & Hunt. $1.25.
Wallace, Gen. L. Seeker after "The Lights." From "Ben Hur." George R. Lockwood & Son. $1.25.
Werthelmer, L. A Muramasa Blade: A Story of Feudalism in Old Japan. Illustrated. Boston: Ticknor & Co. $3.00.

Fine Arts.

PICTURES AT THE ACADEMY.

THE first thing that strikes the visitor to the annual autumn exhibition, now open at the Academy, is the confused appearance of the pictures as they are hung upon the walls. Large pictures and small ones, noisy pictures and quiet ones, light pictures and low-toned ones, are placed at random in jarring contrast. The doors seem to have been very wide open, also, this year, for there is a larger number than usual of what may by courtesy be called inferior pictures. It is true that there is not generally enough good work sent to the Academy in the autumn to fill the galleries, and the custom of holding exhibitions at this season was once abandoned on this account. This year the really good things are fewer than ever, and they are almost swamped in the mass of mediocre and feeble work. Why such childish efforts as "After the Accident" (No. 176) or "Lung' Arno" (No. 23), for instance, should be given places in what is supposed to be a serious exhibition of works of art, is inexplicable.

One of the most important canvases in the exhibition is a large picture by Emil Carlsen, entitled "Plucking Fowl." It is placed at one end of the south gallery. The picture represents a young woman standing beside a table, plucking the feathers from a large fowl. In the foreground, on the floor, is a large metal vessel. The still life, the painting of which has evidently been the object of the artist in composing this picture, is very well done. The figure is broadly handled, and keeps its place well in the background of the picture, while it is at the same time made sufficiently prominent to give interest to the homely interior. It is a good picture, frankly and honestly painted.

Two pictures by Edgar M. Ward are worthy of more than a passing notice. One is a small portrait of a lady in a black dress, which is thoroughly well drawn and modelled. The other is an interior with two figures, called "Motherly Care." The effect of the dark notes made in this light room, with its whitewashed walls, by the soberly clad figures of the mother and daughter, is well conceived, and rendered with great truthfulness.

From Burr H. Nicholls there is a good landscape, "By the Roadside," with a flock of geese in the foreground, painted in a gray-day effect which is remarkable for its light and air. H. R. Poore shows a well-painted study of "Hounds"; Geo. De F. Brush, two original pictures of Indian life, "The Silence Broken" and "Crossing the Prairie"; and Winslow Homer, an impressive marine, "Lost on the Grand Banks," representing two fishermen in a boat on the crest of a large wave, surrounded by the foggy atmosphere of the Grand Banks. This work is of Mr. Homer's best. The gray masses of water rising and falling in huge waves, the lowering sky, and the lost fishermen in their lonely boat, make a picture of singular charm, which has already found a place in one of the gift-books of the year.

In the West gallery is hung a cleverly painted half-length of a lady in the costume of the early part of the century, by W. H. Lippincott, called "Souvenir of Sir Thomas Lawrence"; an interesting little genre, "Old Music," with excellent qualities, by George W. Maynard; and a charming picture of Oriental life, "The Last Favorite," by H. Siddons Mowbray, a small canvas showing the interior of an Eastern apartment, with a figure of a young female slave seated in the foreground; she holds an orange in one of her pretty hands, and several of her companions, clad in variously colored draperies, recline on a divan in the semi-obscurity of the back of the room. It is especially pleasing in color. In the West gallery also are a good little bit of painting by W. Verplanck Birney, called "Shining Up," and a landscape, "Bartlett's Pond, South Plymouth," by R. W. Van Boskerck. Bruce Crane is represented by an excellent sunlight effect, a scene in a broad village street, with overhanging trees and white houses, called "A New England Study." Hung in the same room and near by is a characteristic piece of work by F. D. Millet, "Tambourine Player." A striking and deftly painted portrait of a gentleman in a plum-colored suit is signed by W. M. J. Rice, and another of a stout gentleman seated in a chair with his hands on his knees is by J. Carroll Beckwith. A portrait by Lowell Dyer, an elderly gentleman with white hair and beard, seated in a large leather arm-chair, is noticeable for good qualities of color and serious painting. J. Alden Weir is creditably exemplified by a picture of dogs lying on the hearth before an old-fashioned fireplace, called "After a Day's Rain," Hamilton Hamilton by a "Head" and "On the Way to the Beach"; and there are noticeable landscapes or marines by Charles H. Davis, H. R. Butler, Edward Gay, J. Francis Murphy, Kenyon Cox, F. K. M. Rehn, D. M. Bunker, and Edward Moran.

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